



'Genuine but not obliging'

CAIRO (AP) — The Egyptian treasury department said it will stop four million dollars in aid to the Palestinian Authority until it agrees to sell off the assets of the late Yasser Arafat's family.

The aid was suspended after the Egyptian government learned that the Arafat family had received a large sum of money from the United States and other countries.

The Egyptian government said it was concerned that the money would be used to finance the Palestinian Authority's operations, which it said were not in line with the terms of the Oslo Accords.

The aid was suspended for three months, but the Egyptian government said it would consider lifting the suspension if the Palestinian Authority agreed to sell off the Arafat family's assets.

The Arafat family's assets include a large collection of real estate and other property in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Egyptian government said it was not obliging the Palestinian Authority to sell off the assets, but it was genuine in its desire to ensure that the aid was used for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

The aid was suspended on Monday, October 13, 1997.

Queen's visit prove a dog's life for some

NEW YORK (AP) — The author of a new book on the life of the Queen of England, Elizabeth II, said that the Queen's visit to the United States was a "dog's life" for some of the people who live in the shadow of the monarchy.

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Chubby dog's life

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Women's club

find the answer

Richard

Israelis detain PNA colonel for traffic violations

GAZA (AFP) — The Israeli army detained a head of President Yasser Arafat's security service, Force 17, on Tuesday for allegedly not paying traffic fines. Palestinian security sources said. Colonel Kifah Barakat, the chief of the force in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, was held for three hours at the Erez border crossing on the Gaza Strip until Mr. Arafat personally intervened to win his release, they added. The Israeli troops who detained Col. Barakat said he had not paid fines for traffic violations, the Palestinian sources said. But they added that Col. Barakat had no such charges against him and the detention was "part of insults and harassment of Palestinian Authority officials by Israel." Col. Barakat has VIP status allowing him to travel freely between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



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Lawzi: Prisoners freed from Israeli jails will be released from detention after interrogation

'In normal exchanges of prisoners, it is customary to interrogate them'

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A government spokesman Tuesday denied that nine Jordanian prisoners, who were released from Israeli jails on Monday, will spend the rest of their sentences in Jordanian jails as claimed by Israel.

Acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Nasser Lawzi said that the prisoners who were sent to a Jordanian detention centre following their release from Israel will be freed soon after their interrogation by Jordanian security officials.

Mr. Lawzi's statements counter Israeli media reports that the release of these prisoners, which followed a deal between the two sides, was conditional on continuing the remainder of their sentences in Jordanian jails.

"It is not a release from one jail to another... the release of these prisoners is final," said the minister, who was speaking to reporters following the regular Cabinet session.

"In normal exchanges of prisoners, it is customary to interrogate them and study some details related to their detention, especially what was discussed with them during their detention," Mr. Lawzi said.

The release of these prisoners was in line with an agreement to exchange Jordanian and Palestinian prisoners with two Israeli Mossad agents, involved in an assassination attempt of a Hamas leader in Jordan.

Mr. Lawzi said that "concerned committees" in Jordan are discussing with Israeli authorities the release of the remaining Jordanian prisoners in Israel and the date of their release.

However, Jordanian and Israeli figures on the number of Jordanian prisoners in Israel contradict each other.

While Jordan says that there are 23 prisoners, Israel declared that the number exceeds 30.

Responding to a question on Israeli claims that it will not release five Jordanian prisoners, who according to Israel have "their hands stained with the blood of Israelis," Mr. Lawzi said that the agreement between the two sides stipulates the release of all Jordanian prisoners.

"The agreement envisages the release of Jordanians without exceptions. The two sides are involved in discussing security details [of these prisoners]," he said.

"All Jordanians involved in political cases will be released, but if there are criminal charges [against them] that relate to personal claims [by Israeli citizens] this is another issue," said Mr. Lawzi. He did not elaborate.

Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai was expected to meet with Eitan Bentsur, director general of Israel's foreign ministry yesterday. The issue of Jordanian prisoners who are still in Israel is among the issues he will discuss, Israeli sources said Tuesday.

Mr. Lawzi said that a proposed visit by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to the Kingdom was not in the horizon.

"Usually there is exchange of visits [between the two countries] but no date was fixed for such a visit by the defence minister at present," said the minister, who was responding to a question on Mr. Mordechai's statement on Monday that he will visit Jordan soon.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lawzi said that the Kingdom's decision to participate in the upcoming Middle East and North Africa economic conference, scheduled to be held in Qatar next month, has not been finalised.

The minister said that Jordan has received the invitation to the conference, which will be attended by many countries including Israel, "but the final decision to participate will be reviewed in the coming days."

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood, the backbone of the opposition parties boycotting the upcoming elections, punished with expulsion Abdullah Akaileh and Mohammad Azaideh after they registered to run in the Nov. 4 polls, a Muslim Brotherhood spokesman said Tuesday.

The source added that the movement was also considering the expulsion of Mohammad Haj, but abandoned the idea after the former Zarqa deputy on Saturday retracted his earlier decision to participate in the elections.

Dr. Akaileh, a former deputy and member of the executive committee of the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), is running in the Tafleh District, while Dr. Azaideh, also a former deputy, is running in the Madaba District.

According to the Muslim Brotherhood spokesperson, the other five Islamists running as independents in the next elections could not be expelled because they did not belong to the movement.

In an interview with an Arabic daily last week, Muslim Brotherhood's overall leader Abdul Majeed Thneibat said he regretted that the members not abiding by the July boycott decision had to be expelled, but also maintained that such measure would indeed be implemented.

Defiant Akaileh, Azaideh expelled from Brotherhood

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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Kurdish rivals battle in north Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Iraqi Kurdish factions battled along a key road in the mountains of northern Iraq on Tuesday in fighting that has shattered a U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

"There are clashes around Shaqlawa," Shazad Saib, the PUK's spokesman for the Kurdistan's PUK) Ankara representative told Reuters. Shaqlawa is on a main road through territory held by the PUK's foes, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Mr. Saib also said the two factions fought near the town of Choman, some 15 km from Iraq's border with Iran. The Iraqi Kurds renewed fighting at the weekend after a year without serious clashes. Northern Iraq has been out of Baghdad's control since shortly after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf war.

A Western aid organisation with workers in northern Iraq said the fighting was the worst seen there since Baghdad cracked down on the Kurds in a 1988 operation known as Anfal.

"It's very heavy fighting. It's as heavy as anything since Anfal, that is the size of it," a spokesman for agency said by telephone from Britain.

He said around 60 people had been admitted to a hospital in the PUK-held city of Sulaimaniyah with wounds from artillery and other heavy weapons.

The PUK's radio station, monitored by Turkey's Anatolian news agency, said 57 KDP fighters were killed on Monday. Independent verification of the death toll was not possible.

Iran and U.N. officials expressed concern over a possible influx of refugees to Iran to escape renewed fighting between the Iraq's Kurdish factions.

"We fear an influx from the fighting which has caused internal displacement of Iraqis in the north," said Roger Vivarie, deputy head of mission for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tehran.

"So far we have not received any alarming reports that there are indications of movement of refugees towards Iran's border," he told Reuters by telephone.

Up to 45,000 Iraqi Kurds fled similar fighting in northern Iraq last year to Iran.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent troops to northern Iraq to aid the KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, during last year's fighting.

Feuds between the Iraqi Kurdish groups have allowed Turkish Kurd rebels who are fighting for self-rule in Turkey's southeast, to increase their influence in northern Iraq.

An estimated 15,000 Turkish troops pushed into the Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq last month to fight Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) rebels, who use bases in the area to strike into Turkey.

Turkish officials said on Monday that Ankara's military operation against the guerrillas had begun winding down.

An Iraqi opposition group said on Monday that Turkish warplanes bombed targets of the PUK, which allegedly joined forces with the Turkish Kurd rebels.

Israel transfers frozen monies to PNA

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL TUESDAY transferred to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) outstanding tax revenues it had withheld in light of the Jerusalem bombing in July.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that some \$57 million were handed over to the PNA in a show of goodwill after he met with President Yasser Arafat last week.

"This shows a desire on our part to create a positive atmosphere and I hope it will be accompanied by more steps against terrorism which hurts both Jews and Arabs alike," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Under the peace agreements, Israel is obligated to hand over customs duties and other taxes levied on Palestinian imports and purchases.

Mr. Netanyahu withheld the money as a punitive measure after Hamas' military wing, the Izzeddine Al Qassam Brigade, claimed responsibility for the July bombing in Jerusalem that killed 16 shoppers and the two bombers.

Israel released some of the funds last month under pressure from the U.S. American officials have said that the measure did not help Israel's security and merely weakened the PNA.

Mr. Netanyahu has demanded that the PNA take steps to rein in Islamists blamed for the July bombing and a second Jerusalem bombing in September that killed eight people, including three bombers.

The prime minister said that the money was transferred to the Palestinians on Tuesday after the PNA took "first positive steps in the realm of security."

"We released this morning 200 million shekels [\$57,000] and transferred the sum to the Palestinian [National] Authority," Mr. Netanyahu said.

However, Atef Alawneh, director general of the Palestinian finance ministry, could not confirm that the money had been transferred.

"We have not been notified yet so I cannot say the money is coming," Mr. Alawneh said.

U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross is slated to arrive in the region Saturday for three days to lay the ground for an Oct. 27 meeting in Washington between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and PNA negotiator Mahmoud Abbas.

Israeli Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh called Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat Monday night to discuss a meeting between them.

Mr. Levy and Israeli legal advisor Yaakov Burdugo are expected for this weekend, the radio reported.

During the meeting that may include Mr. Ross, the sides will discuss progress in joint committees charged with implementing interim peace accords between Israel and the PNA.

The committees began work last week after peace talks resumed Oct. 6 following a seven-month hiatus.

The committee on the opening of a Palestinian airport was slated to meet later Tuesday and Israelis said the terminal may begin operating in the near future.



Israeli soldiers stand by as an army bulldozer rips down a Palestinian home under construction outside the Al Aroub refugee camp north of the city of Hebron Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Israel demolishes 2 Palestinian homes

BEIT OMAR, West Bank (AFP) — The Israeli army demolished two Palestinian homes Tuesday outside the West Bank village of Beit Omar north of Hebron, witnesses said.

An army bulldozer accompanied by a large number of soldiers, tore down the homes of two brothers, Khaled and Mohammad Mahmoud Abu Maria, on the edge of the village. The two homes were newly built and not yet inhabited.

The Israeli army regularly demolishes "illegal" Palestinian buildings constructed without the proper permits.

But Palestinians counter that Israeli occupation authorities almost never give out building permits in the 70 per cent of the West Bank which remains under full Israeli control.

Israel has demolished 1,599 Palestinian homes in the occupied territories since the first Israeli-Palestinian accord was signed in 1993, said a study by a Palestinian research centre, reported Tuesday in the Palestinian daily Al Ayyam.

The policy of destroying homes is intended "to empty the lands of their Palestinian residents, who are confined to limited communities" in order to annex the lands at a later date, the report by the Nablus-based Legal Centre for Defence of Lands said.

2 Israelis slightly injured in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Two Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded in a Hizbollah guerrilla attack in south Lebanon on Tuesday, triggering raids on their bases in the east of the country, the army said.

The two were injured in a hail of mortar and anti-tank missile fire on positions of the Israeli military and its allied South Lebanese Army (SLA) militia in the eastern sector of the Israeli-occupied buffer zone, an army spokesman said.

The two were treated on the spot and released, he added.

In Beirut, a Hizbollah spokesman said the guerrilla group had carried out the attacks near Beaufort Castle, a ruin dating back to the Crusades, adding that "there seem to be a large number of casualties among enemy ranks."

In retaliation, Israeli warplanes raided Hizbollah bases in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, the army said.

"Our aircraft hit Hizbollah positions in the Bekaa and returned to their bays without damage," a spokesman said.

Security sources in Lebanon said two jets fired four rockets at Hizbollah bases in Janta, Nabi Sheet and Sareen, about 10 kilometres from the Syrian border.



An Iraqi Kurd fighter watches Turkish soldiers atop an armoured personnel carrier driving past the Habur border gate to return to Turkey Monday. Turkey began winding down an operation against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq but plans to leave small army units behind on a long-term basis (Reuters photo)

Prince Hassan calls on educators to focus attention on quality of education

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday called on educators to focus attention on the quality of education in its comprehensive sense which includes training of teachers and promoting the work of the educational institutions and their capabilities to cater to the new scientific and technological developments.

Addressing a ceremony held at the Teachers Club in honour of veteran teachers in observance of the International Day of Teachers, Prince Hassan called for the creation of a new culture based on activating human resources that can do away with the present, monotonous and ineffective educational systems.

In order for training to reach its most ideal level it should involve all the concerned human resources, the Crown Prince said. Training programmes must be meaningful and specialised as professional training brings about real change in the essence of the educational system transforming it into an effective system, the Regent stressed.

He said "designing effective training programmes should assume a renovated form so that the training will not only be a tool for the promotion of individual efficiency but should also respond to the real needs of the educational system and the challenges facing education."

Prince Hassan called for the creation of a specialised centre that can train teachers of science, mathematics and Arabic, and so forth.

"For the continual improvement of the teaching and learning environment to be achieved, schools should be provided with the necessary facilities like laboratories and workshops so that education may not remain traditional or isolated from the technological and scientific developments," Prince Hassan said.

He said that it would be most convenient to create a new mechanism for providing with new schools as possible with computers and laboratories since it is not possible now to provide all schools with these computers due to high cost.

The Regent called on the local institutions and councils to take part in the creation of social activity centres where computer training and scientific experiments can be conducted by a number of schools.

Prince Hassan said that training of teachers should be coupled with the introduction of an incentives system for teachers, warning that unless training is done within a comprehensive framework it would not lead to attaining the aspired results neither in promoting the capabilities of the educational institutions nor in the management and development of teaching.

"The improvement of quality targets not only the educational infrastructure but rather also the quality of education on which the educational system should be based because we aim to achieve an ideal situation whereby we can utilise human resources so that we can improve the educational management and the quality of teaching, that we hope will help us to move from the present monotonous system to an efficient and interactive system," the Regent added.

He noted that the first step in the qualitative development of education lies in explaining the aspirations and the objectives of all those involved in education and in improving the general situation at the school which is the basic unit of education.

"The task of concentrating efforts on the school is rather huge as it aims at improving the efficiency of teachers who are part of an integrated process," Prince Hassan said noting that "in this way we can stop dissipating our efforts and wasting our resources which have to date restricted the work of schools and frustrated the human resources involved in the educational process."

Referring to the ongoing efforts for the development of higher education, the Regent said that "we have crystallised the basic outlines for a comprehensive plan to develop higher education."

The Regent lauded the efforts of Prince Ghazi, the chairman of the Council of Higher Education, and the council members, whose mandate ended last week noting that they have followed up the course of promoting higher education and expressed hope that the new council will follow in their footsteps.

Prince Hassan said he was delighted for his participation in the ceremony for honouring veteran teachers saying that they deserve the honour for their role.

"We view with pride all that has been achieved and we are determined and hopeful to pursue the march and to develop education so that we can enter the 21st century with confidence and reassurance that we are pursuing the right path that enables us to take a place in cooperation and in participation rather than standing among those who remain waiting in the backlines," Prince Hassan said.

He added: "We aspire to reach a stage where we can be effective and influence others, not to remain recipients and reacting to development without having any role to preserve and highlight our identity and allow us to contribute to the shaping of the future and its trends, its implications and its tools."

He said that the honouring of teachers is an honouring of all those involved in the education process because teachers have a basic role to play in the community.

The Regent commended the efforts of all those involved in teaching and in accomplishing the first stage of the educational development plan saying that there is a long way to go now that the basic infrastructure has been installed.

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Israeli chief rabbi appeals to Hamas to stop bombings

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel's chief rabbi, Eliahu Bakshi Doron, sent a representative to Gaza Tuesday to meet with the spiritual leader of Hamas and appeal for an end to anti-Israeli attacks, Israeli army radio reported.

Rabbi Doron's envoy, Menachem Froman, was accompanied by an Israeli Arab member of parliament, Abdul Malek Dahamsheh, the leader of the Islamist movement in Israel, for the meeting with Hamas spiritual chief Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the radio said.

It said Hamas political heads and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat may also hold talks with Mr. Froman, a rabbi and settler who has promoted dialogue with the Palestinians.

Sheikh Yassin's supporters at his home said they expected Mr. Froman, Mr. Dahamsheh and other Israeli-Arab leaders for the meeting with Hamas founder Sheikh Yassin.

Israel freed Sheikh Yassin earlier this month after eight years in jail. The sheikh's release was part of a deal to win the return of two Israeli Mossad agents caught in a botched murder attempt on a Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al in Amman.

Following his release, Sheikh Yassin offered a ceasefire with Israel on condition it stopped harming Palestinian civilians by destroying their homes and confiscating their land. Israel has rejected any negotiations with Hamas.

Mr. Doron told army radio meanwhile that he expected

to meet with Sheikh Mohammed Sayed Tantawi of Al Azhar University in Cairo to discuss a religious decree to stop the bombings.

The meeting would be the first between such high-ranking Jewish and Islamic leaders.

Mr. Doron said he had asked Sheikh Tantawi, in a letter conveyed by Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Mohammad Bassiouni, to clarify the Islamic position on such attacks and issue a religious decree prior to a possible meeting between them.

"Today I received an answer and he says he agrees word for word with everything in my letter," Mr. Doron told the radio.

"He said he is opposed to terror and Islam is opposed

to terror and he released a religious decree against attacks on innocent people," the rabbi added.

Mr. Doron said the details of such a meeting had not yet been worked out.

A representative of the Vatican will also participate in the meeting, the radio said but Mr. Doron said he had not contacted the Holy See.

Hamas opposes the PLO-Israeli peace agreements and claimed responsibility for suicide bombings in July and September that killed 21 Israelis in Jerusalem.

Mr. Doron has often expressed liberal views, urging contacts with Muslims and the Arab World. He frequently talks with Islamic leaders around the world.



Israeli Rabbi Dov Froman, still wearing his phylacteries (prayer boxes) on his forehead and arm after reciting his evening prayers in Gaza City, reaches out to greet Sheikh Ahmed Yassin on Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Israel planning another assassination — Hamas

CAIRO (AFP) — A Hamas representative in Iran said in statements published Tuesday that Israel was planning to assassinate top leaders of the radical Palestinian group even after the botched attempt to kill Khaled Misha'al.

"Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu instructed the Mossad to kill a number of Hamas political and military leaders, including Gaza leader Abdul Aziz Rantissi," the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat quoted Ossama Abu Hamdan as saying.

Mr. Abu Hamdan said Hamas received information from unidentified Arab and European parties through a

"third Arab party" saying Israel was allegedly plotting the assassinations.

The alleged hit list contained the names of Muhiyeddine Al Sharif and Mohammad Daif whom he identified as "military leaders" and Ibrahim Maqademah.

"There is also information on a plan to kill Abdul Aziz Rantissi and Imad Alami, a key member of the political bureau who lives abroad," Mr. Abu Hamdan said in a dispatch from Tehran.

Mr. Abu Hamdan said that previous information indicated that Mr. Misha'al, whom Israelis tried to kill last month in Amman, headed the hit list.

Turkey, Israel discuss defence cooperation

ANKARA (R) — Israel's armed forces chief has held talks on defence industry cooperation with Turkey in a further sign of strengthening military ties between the two countries, Israeli officials said on Tuesday.

Major-General Amnon Shahak met Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and Turkish army head Ismail Hakki Karadayi in Ankara Monday. "The chief of staff discussed security cooperation between the two countries and cooperation between the military industries," an Israeli embassy spokesman

told Reuters. "No specific projects or suggestions were discussed."

The Jerusalem Post newspaper said Sunday that Gen. Shahak was to try to persuade Turkey to replace their armoured vehicles with Israeli Merkava III tanks.

The newspaper said Gen. Shahak would lobby Ankara to produce the Merkava III under licence from Israel as part of a wide-ranging modernisation drive in Turkey's military. Turkey signed a military accord with Israel in 1995 allowing Israeli jets to carry out training flights in Turkey's airspace.

Omanis, including women, to vote for new council

MUSCAT (R) — Up to 51,000 Omanis go to the polls on Thursday to choose from 736 men and women nominated to Oman's Consultative Shura Council, offering women a political role unprecedented in the conservative Gulf Arab region.

Elders, prominent businessmen and intellectuals invited by the government from each of the sultanate's 59 provinces will cast ballots for their nominees to the 82-member council, the third such election since 1991.

After the ballot, Oman's Sultan Qaboos has the final say in picking council members from the nominees.

Interior Minister Ali Bin Hamoud Bin Ali Al Bousaidi told a news conference in Muscat on Tuesday that the 736 Omanis standing for the elections included 27 women.

"We believe Omani women will win seats as before due to society's belief in their abilities and support of them," he said.

The system of elected nominees to the council, which

has only consultative powers and no say in Oman's foreign, defence or security policies, was introduced in 1991 but no women were involved at the time.

The body studies legislation and is intended to widen representation in the government.

Some other Arab Gulf states have similar consultative bodies and Kuwait has a parliament, but they do not include women. Other Arab councils in the Gulf are chosen by governments and do not involve any elections,

however limited the franchise.

During the last Shura Council elections in 1994, the Omani government granted women living in the capital Muscat the right to stand for election and make nominations, but their participation was limited to the capital's six provinces.

In an unprecedented move in conservative Arab Gulf states, Sultan Qaboos appointed two of the nominated women to the council in November 1994.

In June he issued a land-

mark decree allowing women across the country to stand for election to the consultative body. The sultan's directive also enabled women to choose candidates for the council.

The move opens the door to a wider political role for women in the sultanate, where many, although previously barred from politics, have made great strides in the private sector in a country of 1.5 million people.

The council has in the past rigorously questioned ministers, especially those respon-

sible for public services, in televised debates that have been avidly followed by Omanis.

Diplomats said that despite its lack of decision-making or legislative powers, the council had become an important sounding board for public opinion that no minister could ignore.

Each province with a population of 30,000 people will choose two nominees while provinces with a population of less than 30,000 will choose one.

Influx of Iraqi Kurdish refugees to Iran feared

DUBAI (R) — Iran and United Nations officials are closely watching a possible influx of refugees to Iran to escape renewed fighting between rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, a U.N. official said on Tuesday (see story on page 1).

"We fear an influx from the fighting which has caused internal displacement of Iraqis in the north," said Roger Vivarie, deputy head of mission for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tehran.

"So far we have not received any alarming reports that there are indications of movement of refugees towards Iran's border," he told Reuters by telephone.

"But we are very vigilant and trying to make sure to be ready to react to any such situation," he added. "It will be a tragedy especially that

winter is here."

The governor of Iran's Kurdistan province, Abdullah Ramezanzadeh, said on Monday the province was mobilising all facilities to cope with the possible exodus of Iraqi Kurdish refugees, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA, said.

Up to 45,000 Iraqi Kurds fled similar fighting in northern Iraq last year to Iran, which is already home to two million refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan making it one of the world's biggest host countries of refugees.

Some \$18 million was earmarked by the United Nations for refugees in Iran in 1996.

The U.N. in Baghdad said on Monday that fierce fighting was raging in northern Iraq in what appeared to be the most serious outbreak of violence in one year between the Patriotic Union

of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Mr. Vivarie said all the Iraqi Kurds who fled last year's fighting had returned home from Iran, but that the repatriation of Afghan refugees in Iran was moving very slowly due to continued fighting in Afghanistan.

"So far this year only 1,578 Afghans have been repatriated. It is a very slow pace," he said, adding that UNHCR recently renewed discussions with Iran on how to deal with repatriating more of the 1.4 million Afghans.

Iran said in July it wanted to repatriate up to 200,000 of the Afghan refugees through neighbouring Turkmenistan in cooperation with UNHCR. It said the U.N. had pledged \$43 million for the voluntary settlement.

But Mr. Vivarie said the plan had not started and it

was not clear what would happen due to the continued war in Afghanistan.

Areas of Afghanistan bordering Iran are controlled by the Taliban and the plan apparently intended to return the refugees to regions under the control of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani whom Tehran recognises as the legitimate president.

A similar plan had to be abandoned last year because of the factional fighting in Afghanistan.

Iran says the refugees are a burden on its economy and that it needs international help to cope. Unemployment is 10.7 per cent in a country of 60 million Iranians.

Iran set a deadline in January for Iranian employers to fire illegal aliens, mostly Afghan workers, but residents said the drive appeared to have had little impact.

'Netanyahu angry over Weizman's meddling'

TEL AVIV (AP) — President Ezer Weizman briefed Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday on his recent U.S. visit and tried smooth relations rocky by reports that he tried to interfere in the prime minister's Mideast policy.

The president's role is largely ceremonial, but President Weizman has become increasingly involved in efforts to rescue the Mideast peace process, much to the chagrin of Mr. Netanyahu.

Against the prime minister's wishes, President Weizman has been pressing for a greater U.S. involvement in the negotiations.

The latest spat followed an Israeli newspaper report that President Weizman told U.S. President Bill Clinton last week that Mr. Netanyahu would give up all the Golan

Heights for peace with Syria. Syria has demanded that Israel withdraw from all of the Heights occupied since the 1967 Mideast war. Mr. Netanyahu has said he was ready for some territorial concessions, but would never agree to a complete withdrawal.

The reported remarks were denied by the president's spokesman but Israeli army radio quoted a source in the prime minister's office as saying that the comments would put Israel under unnecessary pressure from the U.S. to make concessions.

The daily Yediot Ahronot said Mr. Netanyahu's aides called President Weizman's remarks "a scandal." Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak declined comment Tuesday.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
14:10Jonny Quest
14:30Super Dave
15:00Secrets of Treasure Island
15:30Super Dave
16:00Monsters Today
16:30Border Town
17:00French Programmes
19:00News in French
19:30News Headlines
19:35Neighbours
20:00Grace Under Fire
20:30Challenges
21:10Kung Fu 3
22:00News in English
22:30Land's End
23:15American Gothic
23:59End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:17Fajr
05:34(Sunrise)Daha
11:21Dhuhr
14:37Asr
17:09Maghreb
18:26Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifheh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terza Sancta Church Tel. 623366

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Under the effect of the unstable hot mass affecting the Kingdom, hot weather conditions will prevail and clouds appearing at different altitudes. There will be a chance of scattered showers with winds southeasterly moderate to active and dusty. In Aqaba, it will be hot and dusty, skies partly cloudy with a chance of thunder showers, winds southerly moderate, and seas calm.

Amman20/35
Aqaba26/38
Deserts18/36
Jordan Valley25/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 39
Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Yousef Rashid875792
Dr. Walid Al Masri675485
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab758848
Dr. Khalil Jbali740740
Firas pharmacy661912
Ferdows pharmacy890280
Al Asema pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Naioukh pharmacy623672
Najib pharmacy847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir276852
Dr. Quds pharmacy(-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halaseh982799
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 680701
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir,775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08 (53250).

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
07:05Damascus (RJ)
08:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:30Jeddah (RJ)
09:15Lamaca (RJ)
14:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:30Madrid (RJ)
16:40Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
17:05Paris (RJ)
17:05Istanbul (RJ)
17:40Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
18:10London, Berlin (RJ)
18:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:15Rome (RJ)
19:10Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
23:15Beirut (RJ)
00:05Cairo (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied

15:20Algiers (AH)
15:30Dubai (EK)
16:00Doha (QR)
18:30Istanbul, Damascus (PK)
19:40London (GA)
20:10Beirut (ME)
20:10Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:20Istanbul (TK)
22:25Amsterdam (KL)
22:30Athens (OA)
04:15Ankara (TK)
06:50Amsterdam (GA)

Royal Wings (RW)
07:45Aqaba (RW)
09:05Amman (QAIA) (RW)
09:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:20Tel Aviv (RW)
18:30Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:20Aqaba (RW)
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

06:00Lamaca (RJ)
10:15Rome (RJ)
10:45Berlin, London (RJ)
11:45Istanbul (RJ)
17:00Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
19:10Colombo (RJ)
19:35Beirut (RJ)
20:00New Delhi (RJ)
20:10Cairo (RJ)
20:10Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
20:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
20:45Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:50Bombay (RJ)

21:05Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:45Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

05:50Lamaca (CY)
07:45Beirut (ME)
07:50Amsterdam (GA)
08:25Loodoo (BA)
09:00 Damascus, Istanbul (PK)
11:00Hudaidah, Sanaa (IY)
11:30Al 'Arish (PF)
11:50Kuwait (KU)
12:30Jeddah (SV)
13:00Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
13:15Cairo (MS)
14:10Tel Aviv (LY)
14:30Tunis (TU)
14:50Vienna (OS)
16:20Sharigah (AH)
16:45Dubai (EK)
16:50Doha (QR)
19:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
20:40Denpasar (GA)
22:55Damascus, Paris (AF)
23:25 Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)
25:25Ankara (TK)
03:00Athens (OA)
05:15Istanbul (TK)

Royal Wings (RW)

06:45Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
08:15Aqaba (RW)
09:30Amman (QAIA) (RW)
16:45Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:55Tel Aviv (RW)
20:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:50Aqaba (RW)

Home N

CVWA comm

Report on agency

Candidate

time on tel

NEW

Price Mohammed sends regards to the

What's going on

MEMORIAL MANS

European Film Festival

German film "Fitzcarraldo"

and Great film "The 400 Blows"

at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.



MINISTER OPENS MOTOR SHOW: Depicting for His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Minister of Culture Qasem Abu Ahn Tuesday inspects a car at the Amman International Motor Show. Taking part in the six-day show are 35 Jordanian companies representing car manufacturers (Petra photo)

UNRWA commissioner presents report on agency's future budgets

AMMAN (J.T.) — Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Peter Hansen Tuesday presented a draft report on the agency's performance and its estimated fiscal budgets for 1998 and 1999 to the UNRWA Advisory Commission.

The draft report, which is to be reviewed by the commission, will later be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York next month.

Mr. Hansen's estimated budget for UNRWA in 1998 is \$314 million, rising to \$320 million in 1999. The 1997 budget was put at \$352 million.

UNRWA's humanitarian services to Palestinian refugees cannot continue without further contributions from the donor nations to cover the expected deficits in the next two years, according to Mr. Hansen.

A deficit in the agency's 1997 budget forced Mr. Hansen last month to announce austerity measures, including freezing appointments of teachers, charging refugee students school fees, and cancelling hospitalisation programmes.

However, following a meeting in Amman by donor nations, Mr. Hansen cancelled some of the measures after securing more than \$19 million.

Other measures are still in force, including a 15 per cent reduction in international staff and the suspension in the recruitment of additional teachers.

Addressing the commission's meeting Tuesday was Ziyad Majali, head of Jordanian representation office in Gaza, who outlined Jordan's services for the refugees.

Despite its meagre resources, Jordan has been spending around \$350 million annually in the form of services for the refugees living in camps in the Kingdom, which hosts the majority of the Palestinian refugees, he stated.

Jordan has been spending on roads, water supplies, electricity, and sewage facilities, as well as providing health, educational, cultural, and economic services to the refugees, he said.

Part of the government's social safety package, totalling nearly JD420 million, will be used to finance infrastructure projects in the refugee camps, according to Mr. Majali.

He warned that reduced UNRWA services to the refugees due to a decline in donations would have adverse consequences, adding that the refugees reject UNRWA's moves to impose austerity measures.

The meeting was attended by delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the U.S., Japan, France, Britain, Belgium, Turkey, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Candidates offered ad time on television, radio

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Radio and Television Corporation has started presenting promotional messages on the radio and television by candidates running in the campaign for the general elections.

A corporation statement said each candidate is allowed a maximum of one minute per day, and their messages should be handwritten and sent to the corporation, where they will be recorded.

The corporation will offer each candidate an introductory 15-second spot, free of charge, for his or her message to be broadcast on television between 3:15 p.m. and 4:45 p.m., and the recording of the messages will also be done free of charge, according to the statement.

The announcement said television messages will be charged after the first 15 seconds according to the following rates:

Channel One: 2:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. at JD10 per second, 6:15 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at JD15 per second, and 8:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at JD25 per second.

By radio the messages will be charged as follows:

6:55 a.m.-7:00 a.m. and 8:05 a.m.-8:10 a.m. at JD25 per second, 12:05 p.m.-12:10 p.m., 1:40 p.m.-1:45 p.m., and 5:55 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at JD10 per second, and 3:35 p.m.-3:40 p.m. and 9:20 p.m.-9:25 p.m. at JD5 per second.

Candidates will also have to pay the sales tax charge in each category.

Regent attends Cabinet session, stresses need for comprehensive planning strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited the Prime Ministry where he met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and chaired part of the regular Cabinet session.

Addressing the session, Prince Hassan stressed the importance of comprehensive regional planning when preparing the next five-year national development plan.

The plan will be presented by the end of this month before the Crown Prince.

After the session, Minister of Public Works and Housing and Acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Nasser Lawzi said the Cabinet discussed several important issues and adopted a number of decisions.

The Cabinet confirmed decisions appointing Walid Asfour Chairman of the Board of Directors of Royal Jordanian (RJ) and Taher Hikmat, Adel Qudrah, and the deputy governor of Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) as new RJ board members.

They also appointed Ahmad Abdul Fattah as deputy governor of CBJ and accepted the resignation of Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Fayez Khasawneh, effective Nov. 1.

The session approved a visit next month by Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi to Saudi Arabia in response to an official invitation.

The Cabinet endorsed an agreement on dual taxation concluded in September between the Jordanian and Algerian governments.

They also agreed to the exchange of memoranda between Jordan and Germany on financial allocations for experts and studies for projects that will be implemented within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and authorised Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf-Humeidi to sign it on behalf of Jordan.

Other actions taken by the Cabinet included the endorsement of the minutes

of the Higher Stamps Committee, which is in charge of issuing commemorative stamps in 1998, and the approval of a recommendation to include the Export Promotion Corporation staff as beneficiaries of the Civil Servants Consumer Corporation services.

Abdul Latif Mira' was appointed as a member of the Orphans Fund Board of Directors for a four-year term, effective Oct. 1, and the status of Fares Sarareh as the private sector representative in the fund was renewed for a four-year term, also effective Oct. 1.

The Cabinet approved the formation of a Palestinian Affairs Department delegation to attend the meetings of the committee in charge of educational programmes

for Arab students under occupation, which will be held in Cairo on Nov. 7.

The Cabinet listened to a briefing by Dr. Kurdi on his visit to Yugoslavia last week and the outcome of his meetings with Yugoslav officials.

Dr. Kurdi said two specialised Yugoslav medical companies will provide Jordan with vaccines and sera free of charge, and will partially finance a portion of the vaccines that will be used in the nationwide polio vaccination campaign to be launched in March.

The Cabinet also listened to a briefing by Minister of Labour Saleh Khasawneh on his participation in a labour conference recently held in Belgium.

March stressing smoking dangers to be held Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Anti-Smoking and Anti-Cancer Societies Friday will hold a sponsored march in Amman designed to raise public awareness on the dangers of smoking.

The march, which will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, will begin at the main gate of Sports City, proceed toward the University of Jordan, and return to Sports City, according to the organisers.

Sami Khatib, vice chairman of the Anti-Cancer Society, told a press conference that it has been established that 33 per cent of cancer cases are caused by smoking, which is also responsible for 90 per cent of lung cancer and 80 per cent of heart disease cases.

Mohammad Shreim, chairman of the Anti-Smoking Society, said the proceeds of the march will benefit poor cancer patients who are unable to pay for the cost of their treatment.

The two doctors called for intensive efforts by public and private institutions to implement anti-smoking campaigns through pamphlets and brochures, lectures, documentaries, and seminars.

They underlined the importance of the role that the media can play to combat smoking which, they said, the World Health Organisation considers an addiction rather than a bad habit.

They noted that the cost of treatment to help smokers quit is much less than the cost of dealing with the diseases resulting from smoking.

A recent report by Al Amal Cancer Centre said 3,000 to 4,000 cancer patients are diagnosed annually in Jordan.

The Anti-Cancer Society is a non-governmental organisation comprising voluntary groups that have the goal of helping Jordanians understand and avoid habits that cause cancer.

The Anti-Smoking Society, which was established in 1981, has been launching annual campaigns against smoking and spreading awareness on the dangers of smoking to public health.

Intra-tribal rivalry, IAF boycott seen as factors in Fifth District

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Intra-tribal rivalry in Amman's Fifth District coupled with the absence of the Islamist opposition are dominating the campaign 20 days before elections for the 13th Parliament.

"The Fifth District is the most unsettled constituency. It is the one most dominated by tribalism, and the district in which tribes will be the decisive factor in the end," said Ziad Abu Ghanimeh, an Islamist in the Islamic Action Front (IAF) election campaign of 1993.

Among 39 candidates contesting the five Muslim seats, including one Circassian-Chechan seat, four major tribes fielded 13 candidates. They are Ahmad Owaidi, Mohammad Hussein, and Mohammad Yousef from the Abadi tribe, Ahmad Odeh, Mohammad Yousef, Mohammad Abdul Hadi, and Mufdi Awwad of the Ajameh, Ata Fadel, Mohammad Darweesh, and Yousef Abdul Hafeth of the Shabwan, and Khalil, Mouloud, and Munir Sobar who all belong to the Circassian clan, the Sobar.

Due to the boycott of the elections by the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the IAF, along with nine political parties, the Professional Associations Union, and independent personalities, the absence of powerful political figures is being strongly felt.

In the previous elections, Hammam Said of the IAF won a seat in the 12th Parliament with the highest number of votes (3,690).

"Had the Islamists joined the race, many of the present candidates would not have run because they would have had a lesser chance of winning. This opened the door for more candidates who saw that there are more seats available for them now," Mr. Abu Ghanimeh said.

"Due to the absence of Islamists and other parties, there is no flavour to elections this year," Abdul Karim Mousa, a bookshop owner in Marj Al Hamam, said.

For the same reasons, many citizens say they will refrain from voting in the upcoming elections.

In this district, which covers Shafa Badran, Abu Nusir, Jubatha, Sweilth, Ta' Al Ali, Um Sumak, Khilda, Biyadi Wadi Seer, and Naour and

where a total of 13,624 persons registered, three women, Hiam Kalimat Toghot, Laila Faisal Kalajri, and Fardous Masri, are running.

Their chances of winning are not great, according to Mr. Abu Ghanimeh.

"With all my respect to women, I do not think they have a chance of winning, especially in the Fifth District, which is characterised by bedouinism and tribalism," he said.

Laila Faisal Kalajri, Hiam Kalimat Toghot, and Mahmoud Bino, along with the three Sobars, are competing for the Circassian-Chechan seat.

Munir Sobar, a member of the 12th Parliament and former minister of supply in the Kabarti government, is one of two former deputies running in this constituency, the other being Ahmad Owaidi Abadi.

Mr. Sobar's decision to run for the elections is eliciting different responses from the community.

"I think Munir Sobar will win. He has offered a lot to the people. His father served so many people and was the mayor of Biyadi Wadi Seer for a long time, and is highly

respected among Circassians," Mr. Abu Ghanimeh said. Biyadi Wadi Seer is originally a Circassian town.

Mr. Mousa disagrees. "[Munir Sobar] will fail. He was the minister of supply in the 1996 Kabarti government that lifted bread subsidies," Mr. Mousa said.

The candidacies of Saoud Zubeidi, Jamal Nsour, and Dahoud Daradkeh were rejected Monday for failure to meet the requirements stipulated by the elections law. These candidates, however, can still appeal before the Court of First Instance.

Other candidates include Mohammad Abu Hudeih, Mohammad Mustafa Adwan, Abdul Hameed Afeshat, Asaf Asaf, Lutfi Deirani, Mohammad Dissi, Saoud Khabalba, Mohammad Khammesh, Khamis Lawzi, Abdul Hameed Manaser, Bassem Muheirat, Ahmad Nahar, Mohammad Awwad Nuaimat, Mohammad Oneizat, Mohammad Qura'an, Zaid Sharaia, Ahjullah Sleihat, Samir Sukkar, and Mohammad Thawabeh.

Southern district candidates focus on 'common concerns' of people, pledge to fight poverty

By Ghaila Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Candidates in the Kingdom's southern districts, Karak, Tafleh, and Ma'an, are echoing the common concerns of the people, pledging increased efforts for the alleviation of unemployment and poverty, as well as the allocation of more seats in Jordanian universities.

Southern candidates, who are largely dependent on their tribal voters to carry them to the 13th Parliament, put up banners calling for justice in the distribution of services, honesty in fulfilling the people's demands, and increased benefits for labourers.

In Karak, where 50 candidates are competing for seven Muslim and two Christian seats, most of the contestants appear to be dependent on their respective tribe members, but others are turning to political and other affiliations.

Drawing on past experience, some of the tribes in Karak nominated only one candidate, but others ended up with more than one contestant, thus reducing their chances of sending one of their kindfolk to the new House.

While the strong Tarawneh tribe could agree for the first time on one candidate, Khalid Tarawneh, the equally-strong Majalis could not.

Both Abdul Hadi Majali and Amjad Hazza' Majali are running, due to what Amjad Majali described as a "dispute within the family."

Two other candidates from the Majali tribe are Majed Majali and Rakan Majali.

Amjad and Abdul Hadi Majali last month published conflicting accounts in the

major Arabic dailies, each claiming support of a faction of their tribe.

According to recent press accounts, other Majali nominees withdrew to give a stronger chance to Abdul Hadi Majali, considered by many as a favourite by virtue of his experience in different public posts and in the political arena.

Mr. Majali is the secretary general of the National Constitutional Party (NCP) and a former minister of housing and public works and ambassador to the U.S. Before that, he headed the Public Security Department after completing his tenure as chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

Other prominent tribes in Karak, where more than 99,146 voters are registered, include the Ghassaneh tribe, which nominated Ayed Adaleh, Ijam tribe (Dua' Mahadeen), Tarawneh tribe (Khaled Tarawneh), Sarairah (Riyad Sarairah), and the Christian Halassa tribe (Makram Qnsous).

Hafeetha Ma'ayrah, the only woman competing in a male stronghold, will be contesting along with other 16 women for some of the 80 seats in the 13th Parliament.

Karak could be considered the most represented district in the Kingdom, with one seat for every 10,000 voters, compared to Amman, with more than 33,000 voters for every seat (660,557 registered voters and 20 allocated seats).

In Ma'an District, comprising the city of Ma'an and the sub-districts of Shobak and Wadi Mousa, the 17 candidates pledged to support women, create jobs, fight corruption, and support the youth movement.

The total number of registered voters in Ma'an is 14,813.

The candidates, competing for three Muslim seats, promised to follow up demands for the establishment of a private university in Ma'an independent from Mu'tah University, which has a branch in the district.

Some candidates, however, appeared to be antithetical to the tribal nature of their region, campaigning against tribalism and sectarianism.

According to a report published Tuesday in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, some tribes in Ma'an, Shobak, and Wadi Mousa, which have more than one candidate representing them, are trying to convince some of the candidates to withdraw in favour of the stronger contestant.

The Ma'an candidates, whose banners did not largely focus on political issues, represent major tribes such as Kharab tribe which nominated Ahmad Abu Aqala and Hisham Sharari, Al Karasheeh tribe (Nayef Hilalat and Akram Kreishan), Al Fanaasah tribe (Nour Fanaasah and Jasser Ma'ani), Al Shamyayeh tribe (Walid Awajan), and Al Aqaleh tribe (Khaled Arar).

In Shobak, where 5,815 voters registered, nominees are Abdullah Hababbeh, Ramadan Rawashdeh, and Mohammad Gimeimeen.

In Wadi Mousa, where 6,900 voters registered, nominees are Ahmad Hasanat, Majed Abu Faraj, Ghazi Tweisli, Oklah Khleifat, and Ahmad Alayah.

In Tafleh, the 18 candidates, who are competing for three Muslim seats, echoed their southern neighbours' concerns, which mainly focused

on service-oriented issues.

Some banners promised the establishment of colleges and universities in Tafleh, construction of dams to provide more water, and the creation of an industrial city within the district.

According to Tafleh sources, the people in the district have been complaining that the 12th Parliament neglected their needs, and are hoping that new representatives would fulfil their demands.

A prominent former Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy, Abdullah Akaleh, who represented the IAF in the 12th Parliament, chose to defy the Muslim Brotherhood boycott and run in the elections.

The Brotherhood Monday expelled Dr. Akaleh from the movement.

Dr. Akaleh and another candidate, former deputy, Rabea Sa'oud, come from Imeh, a town in Tafleh. Dr. Sa'oud represents the NCP in the elections.

Mohammad Oraa, secretary general of the Arab Land Party, is supported by his party and other leftist parties.

The rest of the candidates from Tafleh, where approximately 32,111 voters are registered, are supported by their tribes and include Ibrahim Jfour, Mohammad Shbeilat, Abdul Rahim Khreizat, and Mohammad Qatasha.

Other candidates from Tafleh are Yabha Khawaldeh, Santam Awwad, Sidqi Shbarat, Qussay Mahasneh, Odeh Sawaleh, Mousa Ma'adeen, Mohammad Zidanee, Mahmoud Rfu'a, Fahmi Rheihat, Bassam Qreimat, and Ahmad Salman.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammed sends regards to Saudi prince
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday sent a cable to the Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, congratulating him on his successful surgery. Prince Mohammad wished Prince Sultan continued good health and happiness and the Saudi people further progress and prosperity under the leadership of His Majesty King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz.

Royal Decree endorses appointment
AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree was issued Tuesday endorsing a cabinet decision appointing Nasha'at Dleihan Majali and Imran Amin Khamash as governors at the Ministry of Interior.

WHAT'S GOING ON

MEMORIAL MASS
* A memorial mass for the late Mother Teresa at the Church of the Visitation Home, Al Hashimiyeh (Hammur area) at 4:00 p.m.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL
* German film "Fitzcarraldo" and Greek film "Me Mia Crayvi," at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., respectively.

FILM
* "Children's film 'Just William,' at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

PLAY
* Children's play "Shahroux and Traffic Rules," at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

EXHIBITIONS
* "New Generations" (students' drawings, water colours, and oil paintings) at the Orthodox Club, Abdoun, until Oct. 17.
* Paintings by Abdul Qader Bakheet at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 30.
* Works by Iraqi artist Ali Al Ebedi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 23.

(Tel. 5337598).

* "The Project of the Essence: Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90s," at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.
* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Mur-murs of Our Land" by Riham Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 6588967), until Oct. 30.
* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura, Mediterranean" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).
* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

2 Americans win Nobel Economics Prize for derivatives valuations

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Two American university professors shared this year's Nobel Prize for Economics Tuesday for pioneering work which led to more efficient valuation techniques and risk management on financial markets.

Robert Merton, 53, a professor of business administration at Harvard, and Myron Scholes, 36, a finance professor at Stanford, were honoured for devising "a new method to determine the value of derivatives," the Nobel jury said.

Their work, done in collaboration with the late Fischer Black, "stands out among the foremost contributions to economics sciences over the last 25 years," it added.

Derivatives are means of investing in — and so seeking protection against — events in particular markets, or in the future. The earliest derivatives were linked to shipping on trade routes.

In recent years the size and complexity of derivatives markets has grown exponentially, owing to the removal of barriers to flows of capital, dramatic growth of capital available for investment and, above all, the complex calculations and dealing offered by new technology.

The prize-winners "developed a pioneering formula



Bertil Naslund (left) secretary of the Swedish Nobel Prize committee sits with Professor Torsten Persson (right) as they announce the awarding of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Economics to American Robert Merton of Stanford University and Myron S. Scholes of Harvard University, for their research in the Stock Option markets (Reuters photo)

for the valuation of stock options," the Nobel jury said.

"Their methodology has paved the way for economic valuations in many areas. It has also generated new types of financial instruments and facilitated more efficient risk management in society."

The jury noted that Mr. Merton, Mr. Scholes and Mr. Black "laid the foundation for the rapid growth of markets for derivatives in the last ten years."

Derivatives are used on financial markets to redistribute risks towards those

agents who are willing and able to assume them.

Derivatives are important in the sense that agents who anticipate future revenues or payments can ensure a profit above a certain level or insure themselves against a loss above a certain level.

Stock options allow for hedging against one-sided risk — options give the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a certain security in the future at a pre-specified price.

A prerequisite for efficient management of risk, however, is that such instruments are correctly valued,

or priced. Mr. Merton, Mr. Scholes and Mr. Black showed that it is not necessary to use any risk premium when valuing an option. The risk premium does not disappear, but is already included in the stock price.

"A new method to determine the value of derivatives stands out among the foremost contribution to economic sciences over the last 25 years," the jury said. In 1973, Mr. Black and Mr. Scholes published what has been come to be known as the Black-Scholes formula. Thousands of traders and investors now use this formula every day to value stock options in markets throughout the world.

Mr. Merton devised another method to derive the formula that turned out to have a very wide applicability, and be generalised the formula in many directions.

The two will receive the prize, and a shared cheque for 7.5 million kronor (\$1 million), at an official ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Swedish scholar and industrialist Alfred Nobel in 1896.

The economics prize, established in 1968 by Sweden's Central Bank to commemorate its tricentennial, is the most recent of the Nobel awards.

Since it was first awarded in 1969, 26 Americans have won it, against seven Britons, two Swedes, two Norwegians and one each from Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the former Soviet Union.

In recent months, a dispute has erupted in Sweden over the Economics Prize, with the Swedish Academy calling for its abolition because it was not one of the five original Nobel prizes established by Alfred Nobel in his will, written in 1895 in Paris.

The original Nobel prizes — for physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace — were first awarded in 1901. Contrary to those prizes, which are funded by Nobel's estate, the prize money for the economics award is funded by the Swedish Central Bank.

The Swedish Academy, which each year awards the Literature Prize but has nothing to do with the Economics Prize, has submitted a proposal to the Nobel Foundation, which oversees all the Nobel prizes, calling for the change.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the prize, has said it sees no reason to abolish the economics prize.

China urges closer U.S. links ahead of president's visit

BEIJING (AFP) — China geared up Tuesday for the first visit by a head of state to the United States in 12 years by urging closer links between the two powers.

President Jiang Zemin will start his landmark U.S. visit on Oct. 26 and is scheduled in Washington on Oct. 29 for a summit with President Bill Clinton.

"The most important aim of this trip is for the leaders to jointly establish guidelines for a relationship oriented to the 21st century," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said. "China and the U.S. have different views on many issues ... but these should not be obstacles to a strong and healthy relationship," he added.

While the Foreign Ministry has refused to give an exact schedule for Mr. Jiang's visit, saying the timing is still under negotiation, Mr. Shen said he would visit at least three other U.S. cities — New York, Boston and Los Angeles.

He is also expected to fly out via Hawaii.

"We want to convey the message that China and the United States, as the biggest developing and developed nations, and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, should work together," Mr. Shen said. In a new sign of the

improved atmosphere, China indicated Tuesday it may team up with the United States to fight global warming, the official China Daily said.

Ministers and vice ministers meeting U.S. Undersecretary of State Timothy Wirth, who arrived in Beijing Sunday, indicated China may form a "collective front" with the United States to attack the problem, the newspaper said.

There is an international split over a proposed global treaty requiring cuts in greenhouse gas emissions — the main cause of global warming.

The United States believes developing countries like China must be included in any treaty, but Japan — which will host the U.N. conference on climate change in December — has called for more lenient rules for developing countries.

Beijing has in the past vehemently opposed the idea that emerging countries should be burdened with environmental costs that the West never shouldered.

But the report suggested a new point of view may be forming, with China "realising its responsibilities."

The influential Chinese magazine Outlook also said Beijing was highly optimistic about future Sino-U.S. ties.

"We appreciate the repeat-

ed declarations of U.S. leaders that the Sino-U.S. relationship is one of the most important for Washington," the magazine said.

It said outstanding trade issues such as China's entry into the World Trade Organisation and the trade imbalance between the two nations could be solved without too much difficulty. "Since the start of Sino-U.S. relations 18 years ago, there have been many difficulties but these have almost all been resolved, except for the only real problem and that is Taiwan," the magazine said.

"Lessons from the past show that the two sides should take this issue very seriously," it added. Taiwan has been separated from the rest of China since 1949 when Mao Zedong's Communists won control of the mainland, forcing the Nationalists to withdraw to the island.

During a series of war exercises in the Taiwan Strait in 1996, the United States took calls of help from Taiwan seriously enough to send two aircraft carriers into the region.

"China has repeatedly stated that China would like to solve the Taiwan issue peacefully, but from the starting point of sovereignty, we cannot guarantee not to use military force," the magazine said.

Angolan and Congolese troops fight in Cabinda enclave — report

LUANDA (AFP) — Angolan troops Tuesday battled soldiers from civil war-torn Congo around Miconje in the north of Angola's oil-rich Cabinda enclave on the border, an independent source said.

Congolese warplanes meanwhile overflew the Talula region in the enclave, which is wedged between territory of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the north of the rest of Angola, the source told AFP.

Takula is one of the major petroleum sites in Cabinda, a former Portuguese territory which came under Luanda's rule as a province when the enclave and Angola became independent in 1975.

The Angolan Defence Ministry Tuesday refused to comment on developments in Cabinda, other than to stand by a claim made Sunday that Congolese troops had attacked the enclave by air and by land.

Forces backing Congo's President Pascal Lissouba

have meanwhile alleged that Angolan government soldiers have invaded southwestern Congo in support of ex-military strongman Denis Sassou Nguesso, who is at war with his successor as head of state.

Gabon, backed by Congo's former colonial power France, the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), is seeking a diplomatic solution to the Congolese crisis, which has drawn in the DRC as well as Angola.

Tuesday, the French consul in Congo's southwestern oil town and port of Pointe Noire said that "Congolese military authorities" had for three days "prevented" some 50 French nationals there from leaving the town.

However, the French diplomat added that the "situation is very calm in Pointe Noire," where 1,600 of his compatriots make up most of the expatriate community estimated at 1,850.

"Business is as usual. There is no security problem," the consul said, but he explained

that "for three days about 50 French residents have been turning up at the airport to leave town. They are prevented from boarding flights."

"No explanation has been given by the relevant Congolese authorities," the official said, stressing that the detaining of would-be passengers was "a decision by military authorities and not by the authorities who really exercise power in Pointe Noire."

The Congolese military command has charged that Luanda's troops had invaded from Cabinda, amid unconfirmed reports of Angolan military attacks on Dolisie, some 150 kilometres from Pointe Noire.

About a dozen French residents have also been prevented from leaving Dolisie, the main town in Mr. Lissouba's native Niari region on the border with Cabinda, while other French people have been restricted to nearby Nyaki.

A reliable independent source told AFP Monday that

about "1,000 Angolan troops backed up with armour attacked Congo" and said "it is clear this offensive is aimed at supporting ... Sassou Nguesso."

The source said the Angolans aimed to cut Mr. Lissouba's soldiers off from Louima, a strategic town in the economically important region, which is 400 kilometres distant from Brazzaville and has hitherto been spared the fighting that has devastated the capital.

The source added: "I don't see how in these war conditions in Brazzaville the Congo would be able to attack Angola."

Another source said that Congo's consulate in Cabinda had Tuesday asked the Angolan government to prove its allegations that Congolese soldiers had invaded the enclave, while Angolan radio in Luanda cited a statement from the diplomatic mission accusing the Angolan government of failing to show calm over the issue.

India, Pakistan vow to stop Kashmir border firing

JAMMU (AFP) — India and Pakistani military officials concluded two-day truce talks in Kashmir by pledging to end border clashes in the disputed Himalayan state, officials said here Tuesday.

The talks were held in the frontier region of R.S. Pora, 25 kilometres north of Jammu, the state winter capital.

Last week, India lodged its third protest in three months over Pakistan's "unprovoked" firing in Kashmir after an eight-year-old boy and two women were reportedly killed during machine gun fire.

Indian and Pakistani troops frequently clash along the de facto border. They have fought two wars since their independence in August 1947 over the divided Himalayan territory.

An official from India's Border Security Force, however, said he did not expect the meeting to yield significant results.

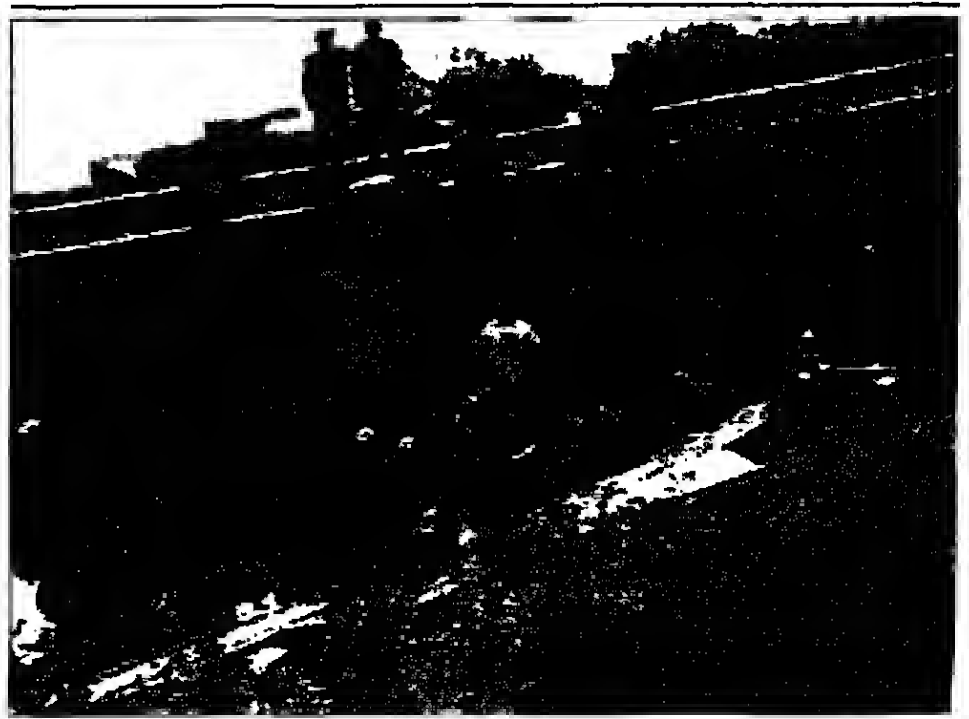
"During the past, several meetings were held and they served no purpose," he said. "When the meeting was going Monday, the Pakistanis were still firing."

Sources said the meeting was terse, with Indian officials accusing Pakistani guards of repeated "unprovoked" firing and the Pakistani team charging India with starting the exchanges.

A source said India also accused Pakistan of trying to infiltrate Islamists into Indian-administered Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of fuelling a Muslim rebellion in Kashmir which has claimed more than 20,000 lives since 1989.

Islamabad, which denies the charge, claims Kashmir should have been made part of Pakistan in 1947 because of its Muslim majority and wants a U.N.-sponsored referendum to decide the future of the state. New Delhi says the territory is an integral part of India.



Rescue workers look for survivors after a bus plunged into a ravine in rural Quebec, killing up to 40 people (Reuters photo)

43 killed in Canadian bus crash

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC (R) — Forty-three people died Monday when a bus full of retirees went out of control and plunged into a ravine in rural Quebec, Canadian officials said.

"There are 43 dead and five severely injured," coroner Serge Thelot told a news conference Monday night.

The charter bus had 48 people aboard — 47 passengers who were members of a retired people's club on an afternoon outing and the driver. Police said the driver was among the dead.

The accident, thought by authorities to be the worst in Canada in 30 years, occurred at mid-afternoon on a provincial highway near the small community of St. Joseph-de-Rive on the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, about 100 kilometres north-east of Quebec city.

Witnesses said the charter bus appeared to have missed a turn at the bottom of a steep hill. It broke through a guardrail and plunged about 20 metres from the road into a deep ravine.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien expressed his condolences to relatives of the

victims Monday night. "We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives," he said in a brief statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with them."

Television images showed the bus lying on its side in rocks and shallow water near a railroad trestle. Rescue workers climbed through the wreckage in an effort to reach the victims.

Although the cause of the accident had not been determined, police said brake failure was a leading theory. An autopsy of the driver was also planned.

"We will look into each and every possibility (of what) could have caused this accident, including mechanical problems or did the driver suffer an injury or illness just before the accident?" said Francois Dore, a spokesman for the Quebec Provincial Police.

Louis Lacroix, who arrived at the scene minutes after the accident, said he heard moaning coming from the bus, which was flipped on its side with smoke billowing from its rear.

"The windshield was completely ripped out, and there

were bodies lying every which way inside," Mr. Lacroix told the Canadian press news agency. "You could hear groans."

Local residents have long complained that the stretch of highway is particularly dangerous. It was the site of an accident in 1974 in which 13 people died, and Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard announced Monday evening there would be an inquiry into the latest crash.

Monday's travellers, most aged between 60 and 70, came from the village of Saint-Basile-de-Beauce, about 35 kilometres southeast of Quebec city, and they were headed to a popular island in the Saint Lawrence River.

News of the accident shocked residents of the home community. "We still don't believe it," Parish Priest Marc-Andre Lachance said. "These are all people we knew."

Another Roman Catholic priest, Jean Moisan, gave last rites to many of the dead at the accident site, local media reported. The injured were taken to hospitals in Quebec city and listed in serious condition.

Deadly brain disease breaks out in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Australian health authorities are on alert after the outbreak of the deadly meningococcal brain disease which has killed one person and infected four others.

Western Australia state rower Amanda Young, 18, died Sunday, five days after returning home from an inter-university competition held at Penrith Lakes in Sydney's western suburbs.

Four more university students from Sydney, including one who attended the same regatta, have also been diagnosed with the meningitis strain. New South Wales (NSW) state health authorities said Tuesday.

Infectious diseases expert Dr. Jeremy McAnulty said there was no direct link between the cases, but added a mass vaccination programme had been launched as a precaution.

"It is impossible to determine the source of the illness," said Dr. McAnulty Tuesday, adding the only common factor between

the Western Australia case and those in New South Wales was the rowing competition.

"As a precautionary measure NSW health instigated last week a vaccination programme for about 460 students at three colleges located within the university of NSW," said Dr. McAnulty.

Meningococcal infection is caused by bacteria that infect the blood or the lining of the brain and spinal cord. It is treatable with antibiotics, but can cause severe illness and possibly death if not detected.

Dr. McAnulty said there was no connection between the outbreak and the Olympic rowing site at Penrith Lakes.

"This particular strain of the disease is passed on by person-to-person contact and is transmitted by mouth kissing, sharing food or drink and coughing," Dr. McAnulty said.

"It is likely other students who attended the games would no longer be at risk of contracting the disease, because of the short incubation period."

Brain works like FM radio, study finds

WASHINGTON (R) — The brain works much like an FM radio when it interprets touch, Israeli scientists reported Monday.

They said tests on rats showed brain cells use a kind of frequency modulation — the same method used by FM radio signals.

"We found that certain circuits in the brain work on the same principle as an FM radio," Elad Ahissar of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot said in a statement.

"We hope that our study will contribute to the deciphering of the neural code, the way in which information is encoded by the sensory organs and decoded by the brain."

Radio waves carry information in two ways. Frequency modulation (FM) involves changing the frequency with which radio waves oscillate, while amplitude modulation (AM) changes the height of the waves.

Radio sets interpret these small changes, which can carry the information that we hear as music or speech.

Similarly, the brain contains cells that oscillate at certain frequencies. Mr. Ahissar's team said they found the brain uses these cells as a yardstick to help it interpret the timing of incoming signals.

Writing in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, which is based in Washington, they gave as an example a finger rubbing a piece of corduroy. Each ridge is a set distance from the next; the thinner and closer the ridges, the more frequent the signal.

Nerve endings in the finger send that signal to the brain. "The timing of the sensory signals appears to be an inherent part of the sensory code," Mr. Ahissar said. "In fact, this timing contains so much information about the external world that it would be surprising if the brain made no use of it."

Testing rats, Mr. Ahissar's team found their whiskers — an important sensory organ for rats — twitched at a frequency of about eight motions per second or 8 hertz (Hz). When they touch something, additional signals are triggered that modulate that 8 Hz signal.

These signals are sent to the oscillating brain cells. "The brains of primates contain similar oscillating cells, which are tuned to the characteristic frequencies generated when the fingertips rub against an external object," Mr. Ahissar said.

They are now testing to see if the brain uses similar methods to decode visual input.

Australia limits import of kava drug

CANBERRA (R) — The Australian government said Tuesday it would restrict imports of the intoxicating South Pacific plant, kava.

"Previously there were no import restrictions on kava, making it impossible to control its distribution and sale," said newly appointed Customs Minister Warren Truss.

"The import restrictions to be applied by customs are part of a strategy aimed at better

regulating the distribution and sale of commercial quantities of kava," he said in a statement.

He said the strategy was aimed at alleviating abuse of kava in some aboriginal communities which is causing concern among government health agencies and affected community and business groups.

Small quantities of up to two kilograms of kava powder or root could be brought in by travellers for personal use, and

a maximum of three months supply of therapeutic goods containing the ingredient was also permitted, he said.

Kava is derived from the crushed root of piper methysticum, a member of the pepper family, which is mixed with water for drinking. It is non-alcoholic.

In the Pacific, notably in Vanuatu, it is mainly used ceremonially.

World News
Clinton begins official visit to Brazil

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Features

Jordan Times, Wednesday, October 15, 1997

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Cairo declares war on the press

By Robert Fisk

Egypt has launched an unprecedented campaign against the press in Cairo, taking Arab journalists to court for a story that was never published and banning foreign correspondents from reporting attacks on tourists. All this in a country which claims to be a functioning democracy.

"MEET ME in court," Magdi Hussein said. And sure enough, when I turn up at the Egyptian ministry of justice's courthouse in the Cairo suburb of Ahhassiya, there is the bespectacled and bearded editor of the Islamist Al Shaab newspaper — published twice weekly with a circulation of 130,000 — standing in the tired atrium of Court Number 3, wearing his usual friendly scowl of contempt for authority. He is appealing a libel case brought by Alaa Al-Alfi, the son of the interior minister, whom his newspaper has accused of refusing to settle a Cairo hotel bill and then bullying the staff when they demanded payment.

Mr. Hussein spends a lot of his time accusing the ruling authorities of corruption. So do other journalists in Cairo. Mr. Hussein himself awaits trial on six other hearings, including another libel case for hearing in a criminal court brought by Minister Hassan Al Alfi himself — whom Mr. Hussein accuses of protecting drug traffickers. Four other writers and a cartoonist on Al Shaab are named in the charge. Minister Al Alfi, needless to say, denies everything. And like Egypt itself, Mr. Hussein's court cases drag on without resolution.

Kafka — cliché though it may be to say so — would be at home in Court Number 3. The ceiling fans slowly turn the sweaty heat high above us while against

the wall, 20 handcuffed prisoners stand inside a medieval iron cage, awaiting trial. Lawyers howl pleas at the three docile-looking civilian judges while guards bawl at women relatives of the caged men. Above the din, I can just hear one of the minister's two advocates demanding a verdict within hours. Mr. Hussein — uncaged — stands before the bench with the same unputting smile.

It would be pleasant to believe that this is some kind of aberration, a freak deviation from Egypt's much trumpeted (and American-backed) democracy. Alas, no. Only last month, a Cairo court found six journalists from the Saudi-owned Arab daily Al Sharq Al Awsat guilty of libelling President Hosni Mubarak's two sons, Ala and Gamal, by claiming that both used their father's name for furthering business deals. Five of the reporters escaped imprisonment because they were outside the country but the sixth, an Egyptian, received six months in jail.

Oddly, the supposedly libellous article never appeared — the Egyptians started proceedings on the basis of an advertisement in the paper for a story that was to appear in its sister magazine Al Jedida. It was only after Al Sharq pulped 120,000 copies of the offending magazine, fired two journalists and issued a grovelling apology that the unforgiving Egyptians took the journalists to court. Al Sharq, one of the most prestigious of Arab journals, then closed its Cairo office.

Military prosecutors meanwhile banned reporters from writing about the killing of nine German tourists by gunmen outside the Cairo National Museum last month. The ministry of tourism said

journalists had no right to question the official version of the attack on the bus — which states that two rather than five gunmen staged the assault — nor to call it an organised "Islamist terrorist" operation because the principal gunman was "insane." The fact that the principal killer, Saber Abu el-Ulla, shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) as he set fire to the bus was ignored.

Even more embarrassing was the fact that Saber Abu el-Ulla was responsible for killing two Americans and a Frenchman in 1993 (again crying "Allahu Akbar" and again excused as "insane"). The Egyptians, of course, are frightened that their tourist industry will again collapse if the slaughter of the Germans appears to be political. Potential tourists should not be warned. Hence the ban. Even this report is thus technically in breach of Egyptian law.

Already one major European news organisation has cravenly come to heel and censored all its reports on the attack. International news agencies and television companies are equally fearful that if they breach the censorship law, the Egyptians may close their offices. Thus Cairo bureaux have become hostages to prevent journalists from reporting the story: Preservation of the office, it seems, is more important than the truth. "The government also intimidates our Egyptian staffers," a foreign news agency journalist says. "When this happens, our news dries up. So what are we going to cover?"

The independent Cairo-based Middle East Times suffered official punishment on Aug. 22 when its editor, Thomas Cromwell, was detained at Cairo airport and deported to Athens without explanation. His next editorial, written



Egyptians enjoy tea and 'sheeshen' at a Cairo café while watching television (AFP photo)

abroad, was headlined "A Letter from Exile" and admitted government censorship of the paper.

"It's very difficult to have a free press without real democracy," Magdi Hussein says outside Court Number 3. "The government cancelled democracy when they held elections which were unfair and now they refuse to allow us to investigate corruption in high places. There is a red line and journalists must not cross that red line." But hasn't he done just that. I ask? The grim returns. "That," he says, "is why I'm here now."

The Independent

Media's nadir

OTHER ARAB media is in a sorry state. If it played its most credible role in opposing colonialism in the Middle East, it is now at its nadir — supporting local dictators, censoring its own reports, accepting bribes from the rich and powerful, acting as a mouthpiece for ruthless regimes.

Jordan recently closed down 13 weekly newspapers, some of them Islamist.

Lebanon's 16 freelance television stations have been cut to four — all owned by prominent members of the Lebanese government.

In Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, criticism of the head of state is seen as treachery.

In Tripoli, Cairo, Algiers (where more than 50 journalists have been killed by Islamists), Tunis and capitals of the Gulf states, journalists are

imprisoned for the mildest criticism. In Lebanon — where the press is still comparatively free — and Jordan and Palestine, writers have been locked up. The Saudi-owned international Arab press — especially Al Hayat and Al Sharq Al Awsat — have some freedom.

But the Saudi-owned Orbit television channel brought about the collapse of BBC's Arabic television service over a programme about the kingdom.

Israel cannot be left out of the equation. Local censorship means that most accounts of the attempted murder by Mossad of a Hamas leader in Amman are preceded by the words "foreign media are reporting..."

Yosef Lapid, an Israeli journalist, this week described the censorship as "an infantile game" — but at least he could say it.

Jailed Europeans rue drug run from Morocco

By John Baggaley
Reuter

RABAT — Rough concrete walls loom above the patient line of people outside the green metal doors of Rabat-Sale prison in the Moroccan capital.

Inside, in a vast visiting room of stifling heat and noise, families and prisoners swap news, complaints and problems in a brief 40 minute once-weekly visit. Some laugh, others are in tears.

No bars, just a waist-high partition, separates convicts and visitors — Moroccan women in bright dresses, unshaven men in T-shirts and dingy jeans.

Almost every group carries one or two baskets of "luxuries" or ordinary needs allowed each week for those in jail.

But away from the roar of Arabic, scores of foreigners, mostly Europeans, sit listlessly in cells, read, smoke or, according to inclination, work in one or other of the painting, pottery, masonry or furniture workshops provided for prisoner recreation.

They are some of the near 600 foreigners held in Morocco's prisons, mainly in Rabat, Casablanca or Tangier, towns nearest to their country's consulate.

"At the moment, there are 572 foreigners in prison. Ninety per cent of them are in for drugs," said penitentiary Director Mohammed Lidi at the Justice Ministry. "Most are Europeans, from Spain, France, Germany, Italy, English, Belgians, Portuguese, all nationalities..."

Some are bitter, others remarkably frank. Some seem to try to benefit from their incarceration, others brood sullenly.

In a narrow cell of six inmates, with concrete-based bunks on either side, a small television set flickers. It has two channels, French and Arabic. A closed-circuit system also recently started on which films in other languages can be shown, say officials.

Nigel Hogben, 33, from Camberley in southern England, has just marked his birthday, the second since his arrest in March 1996. He is doing five years, plus two unless he pays the fine of five million centimes (\$5,200) demanded by Moroccan customs.

He complains of nothing to do, and about the food. "We cook for ourselves with food that is virtually inedible, boiled vegetables and sometimes rice, a bit of chicken sometimes."

Hogben, who said he ran a garden maintenance business before, appeared to hate the "drop" toilet, in a cubbyhole which also served as a shower, the faucet coming from the wall between the ceramic "footpads" either side of the drain outlet.

"The bottle is to block the hole to stop the rats... They are too quick to catch," Hogben said, pointing to a plastic bottle.

Cellmates are three Moroccans, another Englishman Keith Pardoe, 31, a lorry driver from Bracknell, and Rene Waganaar, 29, from Rotterdam.

Whatever their complaints, one said Rabat-Sale jail was "five-star" compared to Inezgane in southern Morocco.

Some are bitter, others remarkably frank. Some seem to try to benefit from their incarceration, others brood sullenly.

"We were with 130 in a cell. Food was full of cockroaches and hairs. There was one tap, one toilet."

Waganaar admits he was trying to smuggle 34 kilograms of hashish when he was arrested in the northern town of Tetouan. "I was doing it. My advice to anyone is 'don't'."

His cellmates laugh. "He was caught red-handed," one said.

He said his mother had been out to visit. The authorities are flexible over inevitably rare visits by relatives of overseas prisoners, allowing them three sessions in a week instead of one.

Next door, Frank Tumansery, 34, divorced with two teenage children in Holland, maintained he was framed by a Moroccan who invited him on holiday and planted the drug.

"I'm off home in four weeks. The hardest thing is the Third World. And the food," said Post who did two years

in prison.

In the corridor, José Manuel Bravo, 30, a mechanic from Barcelona, had two days to go of his term. Despite Spain being Morocco's nearest European neighbour, he said his wife and daughter, 14, had not visited. "It costs too much," he said.

Carsen Suar, 29 from Berlin and serving four years, is luckier. His wife, Conchita Suarez, a 25-year-old from Portugal, comes out every six weeks, he said. The two met before his arrest and because visitors of the opposite sex must be relatives, they married last December in Taza jail.

Christine Sherman, 48 on July 27, from Bury in north England, has the same problem. Her boyfriend Mark Darrington from London, is also serving five years in the same prison, but to visit each other they need to marry.

She shares an uncarpeted cell, some seven metres by 4.5, with 16 beds in double bunks arranged along white-washed walls. Bare light bulbs hang from the high ceiling. Under and between each bunk are neatly stowed personal belongings. There's no privacy or own space "but the girls are all nice here and it's no problem."

"I'm the only Englishwoman in here. The hardest thing is not being able to communicate," she said, adding that a French girl was trying to teach her French and she was teaching her English.

In the studio for those interested in painting, Claes Serge, 25, who was heading home to Lommel in Belgium in a week, said he had learnt French, Spanish and a little Arabic in jail during his three-year term.

Frenchman Marc Dalbagne, from Avignon, has three years to go. He taught himself to paint in jail, and now runs the workshop.

What does he miss most? He shows a painting of his son, Stephen, 13, and the start he has made on a portrait of his other boy, six-year-old Jeremy.

A tour of the prison shows facilities exist for those who want to take advantage of them. The atmosphere is relatively relaxed, and compared to Singapore and other countries with mandatory death sentences for drugs, Moroccan justice is liberal.

But as it tries to stamp out drugs it is looking at increasing maximum penalties to 30 years from 10. And for new prisoners standing before the huge ledger books as details are taken at the start of their sentence, "there is always fear," says prison Director Mimoun Aourah.

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Derivatives duo helped build markets and personal fortunes

Nobel economists are architects of future euro market

PARIS (AFP) — Two U.S. economists awarded the Nobel prize for economics on Tuesday have revolutionised financial markets and have created the technical conditions for the new euro currency to become a dominant force in world finance, a French expert said.

The prize was awarded to Professor Robert Merton of Harvard University, Cambridge, and Professor Myron Scholes of Stanford University, in the United States, who, with the late Fischer Black, pioneered ways of valuing stock options.

Professor Michel Aglietta of Paris X University near Paris said: "The competitive position of different financial markets depends on their methods. The growth of the euro will depend in fact on their work."

"These two Americans are important architects of the field from which the euro is to be launched," he added.

"This is because the relationship between the euro and the dollar is likely to be very volatile, and because the range and variety of instruments associated with the euro will grow rapidly," Professor Aglietta explained.

Professors Merton and Scholes were innovative in providing ways of evaluating products of which the risk was non-linear in relation to the underlying asset such as options.

"Their method in the 1970s opened the way for a big breakthrough in what is called contingent risks.

This resulted in an enlargement of these markets. As they became more complex and linked, a great deal of financial engineering was based on their work. Whole departments of banks were built on this. It became a systematic and scientific way of making profit," Professor Aglietta said.

Professor Aglietta, who is also a scientific adviser to the International Information Forecasting Research Centre (CEPII) in Paris, explained that their complex scientific formulae for assessing risk associated with derivative instruments were now being used increasingly by banks to assess the cumulative risk of all their individual portfolios at risk.

"Banks did not have very good understanding of the risks of these instruments in their balance sheets, and as they were passed on to other parties. The collapse of Barings Bank (in Britain) was linked to a sudden change of the value of the yen which generated a huge and sudden liability which was not well managed," the French expert said.

The methods developed by Professors Merton and Scholes would in turn enable banks to know precisely at any moment how much capital they needed to carry risk, or if they should immediately close excessive positions.

Professor Aglietta, an expert in overall risk arising from the trading of so-called derivative products, said that central banks would also be able to use the same methods accurately

to assess the risks being carried by banks under their supervision.

"The implication of this is that, for example, the so-called Cooke ratios drafted by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), for the capital banks must have in relation to business done, might become increasingly outdated, since these ratios are somewhat arbitrary and of fixed, permanent, duration," he indicated.

The work of the two prize-winners, since developed by others, might mean that individual banks, and above them the supervising banks, might be able to define required capital ratios by the day.

This would have fundamental implications for how the financial industry itself is financed.

Professor Aglietta noted that the BIS, known as the central bankers' central bank, had initiated fundamental studies, mainly through its Basle Committee of Banking Supervision, of ways to improve international management of latent and hidden risk on derivatives markets.

The BIS, while stressing that derivative products provide a vital function, has warned that hidden risk and a broken contract could spread domino-fashion, causing chaos in the entire financial system.

It published thoughts on banks' derivatives exposure in December 1994 and April 1995, a framework of supervisory information about derivatives activities of banks and securities firms in May 1995, details

of their derivatives activities in November 1995 and 1996, and a document on clearing arrangements in March 1997.

In July last year the euro-currency standing committee of the BIS published proposals for improving global derivatives market statistics.

Economists in London said the winners of the Nobel Prize helped build multi-billion-dollar derivative markets and vast personal fortunes for traders around the globe.

The prize jury concluded that the U.S. academics had "generated new types of financial instruments" and "laid the foundation for the rapid growth of markets for derivatives in the last ten years."

These extremely volatile markets have been at the root of many of the most high-profile trading losses seen in recent years.

A string of scandals such as the near-collapse of Britain's oldest merchant bank, Barings, and multi-billion-dollar losses that last year rocked giant Japanese bank Sumitomo were all unleashed amid the complex web of derivative trades.

Meanwhile, the director of financial markets at the London School of Economics, Professor David Weh, said that the pioneering research conducted by the prize winners had rolled up untold profits for traders.

"It has become a massive economics industry and has probably done more than anything else to justify the vast salaries of academi-

ic types on Wall Street and in the City," Professor Weh said. "Their work has made a lot of people very rich."

One analyst said with a smile that the \$500,000 prize awarded to both Professors Merton and Scholes "would be about one month's salary to those guys."

The duo are themselves partners in Long Term Capital Management investment house.

Their work, conducted in collaboration with the late Fischer Black, has allowed more accurate predictions of asset prices in the future.

In 1973, Black and Scholes published a formula now used by thousands of traders and investors each day to value stock options in markets throughout the world.

Professor Weh noted that "this is a problem in finance that has been tackled for most of this century."

Indeed, the first derivative contracts provided finance for the shipping trade routes and industrial revolution during the late 18th century.

A derivative is simply a financial contract whose value derives from an underlying asset, such as a share certificate, a coffee crop or the output of a gold mine. Many derivatives seek to insulate producers from risk.

The breakthrough achieved by the U.S. economists related initially to so-called stock option contracts, which give the holder the right to buy an underlying stock at a given

price at some time in the future.

Their formula was subsequently used to value a whole range of derivatives, opening up untold markets to investment houses.

As barriers to capital flows have been knocked down and capital available for investment has ballooned around the world, the number and value of derivative contracts have skyrocketed.

The London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE), the biggest derivatives exchange outside the United States, last month reported a 43 per cent increase in trade. On average, contracts worth 218 billion pounds (\$348 billion) changed hands every day in September.

Under the U.S. theory, "asset prices seem to behave well, but there are numerous behavioural aspects that cannot be described theoretically," Professor Weh said.

The baffling mathematical models and rapid birth of derivatives trades, which remain eclipsed from the "Old Guard" of financiers, has allowed fraudulent market manipulation to creep into the trading web.

Nick Leeson, blamed by Barings' management for running up losses of \$1.2 billion in Singapore derivatives trades, and metals guru Yasuo Hamanaka, who notched up losses of \$2.6 billion for Sumitomo, have shown just how costly these growth markets can be.

completing and LNG supplies will be in a full swing. Qatar's annual revenues are expected to double," an industry source said.

The Kuwaiti-based IAIGC estimated foreign investment in oil and other sectors in Qatar at around \$4.5 billion at the end of 1996.

It said plans are under way to boost oil capacity to more than 500,000 barrels per day in 2000 from around 400,000 bpd, adding that Qatar's crude reserves were nearly 3.7 billion barrels at the end of 1996.

Qatar's North Field is by far the largest known gas basin in the world, containing nearly 10 trillion cubic metres of non-associated gas, around seven per cent of global gas reserves.

Qatari officials have said investment to develop the field could reach \$15 billion and production could hit 30 million tonnes in 2005.

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Qatar registers 9.7 per cent annual growth

DOHA (R) — Qatar said Tuesday its economy grew by an average of 9.7 per cent a year over the past five years despite difficult international economic conditions.

"The performance of the Qatari economy during the last five years was very good despite unstable international economic and financial conditions," Abdullah Ben Khalid Al Attiyah, Qatar's central bank governor said.

"The rate of growth was about 9.7 per cent (a year) during the last five years, and the average annual rate of inflation for the same period was

2.2 per cent," said Mr. Al Attiyah.

He said Qatar's non-oil sector achieved high growth rates, but he did not elaborate.

Experts said oil contributed around 35 per cent to Qatar's current gross national product (GNP) of 38 billion riyals (\$10.43 billion) and the rest came from industry, services and other non-oil sectors.

Qatar, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), produces over 520,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil and 75,000 hpd of condensate.

Condensate is an extremely high quality

crude oil.

Over the past three years, the tiny Arab Gulf state which controls the world's third largest reservoir of natural gas has invested heavily in diversifying its economy.

Meanwhile, official figures show Qatar reeling under almost \$6 billion of debt built up to finance projects aimed at transforming it into the world's biggest LNG producer.

The Gulf state owes \$5.7 billion to international banks and other creditors and the debt is set to increase as more funds are borrowed for liquefied natural gas (LNG) ventures, the Inter

Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) said in its annual report.

The debt accounts for nearly 79 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), while debt servicing accounts for 20 per cent of GDP and 45 per cent of exports, one of the highest rates in the world.

"The debt is expected to rise in the coming years because of the ambitious investment plans and their financing needs, especially concerning projects to develop the North Field," the Arab League's affiliate said in a 300-page report on the economies of its 22 members.

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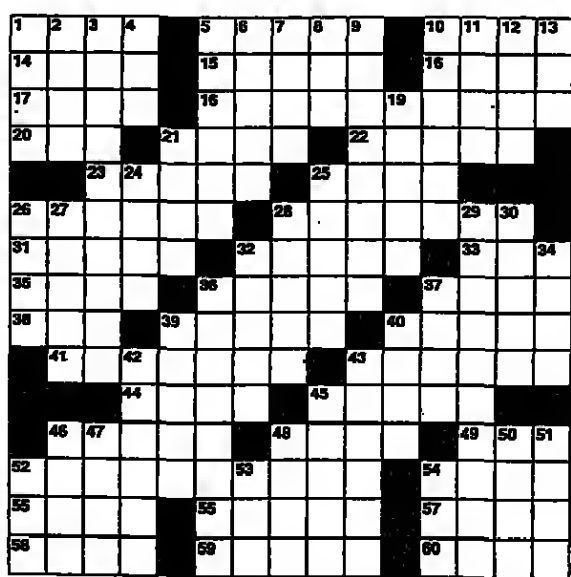
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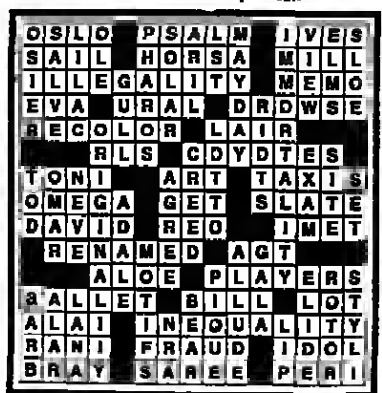
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THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Research buildings
10 Hostage
14 "I first you don't..."
15 Hunter in the sky
16 Soothing plant gel
17 Queen of Scots
18 House of ill repute?
20 Globe
21 Commemorative
22 Characteristic
23 Actress
24 Verdict
25 Sch.
26 Printing mistakes
28 Carry
31 Distinctive perception
32 Hears
33 Once around the track
35 Foul score
36 Turned white
37 Path
38 Zodiac sign
39 Weathercock
40 Star of "The Shootist"
41 Areas of influence
42 Stranded or Madonna
43 Square column
45 Rose petal oil
46 Astronomer Carl
48 Blind as —
49 Clumsy one
52 Place for pick-me-ups?
54 Of course!
55 Hero
56 Singer Della
57 Poker stake
58 Actor
59 Aubergine
60 Poems
- DOWN
1 VIP car
2 From a distance
3 Legal clip joint?
4 Filthy place
5 Luminous ring
6 Bout locale
7 Elevation
8 Little shaver
9 Kidnapped
10 Easter attraction
11 Jail
12 Habit
13 Seine
14 Russian mountains
15 Fountain
16 Behind time
17 Farm units
18 And others: Lat. abbr.
19 Marathons
20 Shoe parts
21 Jungle gym site
22 Soft velvet
23 Creole's capital
24 Equal
25 Spouses
26 Actress Turner
27 Mercenary
28 Skater Katarina
29 Dicker
30 Gazed
31 Charges
32 Knight's title
33 Group
34 — Paulo

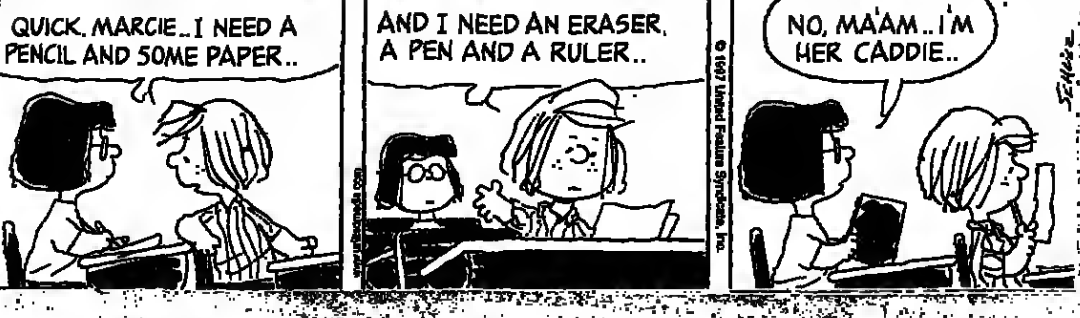


by Frances Burton

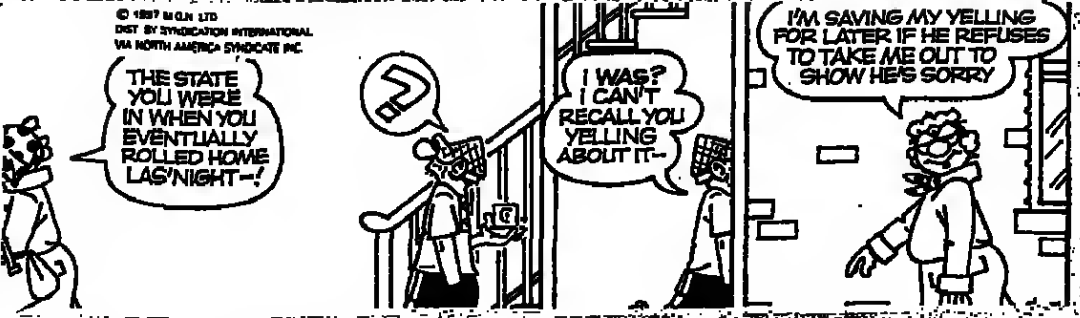


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Peanuts



Andy Capp

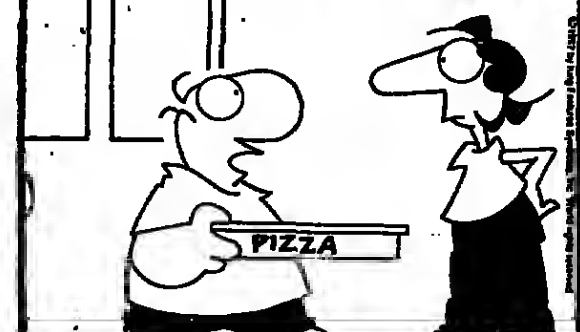


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"If you swallow hard enough, the cholesterol zips right through your veins without sticking."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GEWED

YIRDT

SWUINE

KUNFLY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MIDGE PRIOR PLAQUE UNSAID

Answer: What her job in the coffee shop turned out to be — THE SAME OLD GRIND

Business

Daily

Higher water affect 66 per cent

REUTERS

The Business

Commodity	Unit	Price
Coffee (Arabica)	lb	1.12
Cocoa (Hutchinson)	lb	1.14
Sugar (Hutchinson)	lb	1.14
Wheat (Hutchinson)	lb	1.14
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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Higher water charges will not affect 66 per cent of subscribers

**** THE NEW charges on water consumption which took effect from the beginning of this month will not affect 66 per cent of the subscribers who consume less than 50 cubic metres per quarter. Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin told journalists Monday. Noting that the 66 per cent category are households, the minister said that subscribers in the Amman Governorate who consume less than 40 cubic metres and subscribers in other governorates who consume less than 51 cubic metres will even be paying less than before.**

The minister indicated that the 66 per cent category represents 418,000 subscribers of whom 228,000 subscribers are in the Amman area. He pointed out that 167,107 of the 228,000 subscribers consume 36 per cent of the water and pay only 17.1 per cent of the earnings that the Water Authority receives. Another group that will not be affected by the new charges are 250,000 subscribers from outside Amman who consume 48.49 per cent of water and contribute 19 per cent of the earnings.

Those who consume large quantities of water will be affected by the higher charges, Dr. Haddadin said pointing out that represent 27 per cent of the subscribers in Amman and 17 per cent out-

side the capital.

Kamal Zu'bi, director of the subscribers directorate, explained that households whose water consumption reaches 130 cubic metres per quarter in Amman will be charged 850 fils per cubic metre in addition to 350 fils per cubic metre as a sanitation charge. The same water and sanitation charges will be applied on subscribers outside Amman whose consumption reaches 185 cubic metres per quarter.

Subscribers other than households will be charged a unified JD1 per cubic metre for water consumption and 500 fils per cubic metre for sanitation in all regions. The minimum amount, however, should not be less than JD5 and JD2.5 respectively per quarter.

Noting that the household minimum consumption will be considered 20 cubic metres, whether consumed or not, Mr. Zu'bi said the subscription fee remains unchanged at JD88 including the cost of meters, pipes and related work charges. A JD15 deposit is also required by the Water Authority.

The new charges will reflect on the January 1998 bill which will cover consumption during the last three months of 1997 (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

Jordan cement company sees favourable outlook for '98

AMMAN — Jordan Cement Factories (JCF) Company said Tuesday it foresees improved local and export sales in 1998 as the Jordanian construction sector picks up and outside markets perform better.

"Our target next year, because we have good capacity, is that we will raise our exports and we hope our exports will increase by not less than the 11.5 per cent rise so far this year," JCF General Manager Abdul Elah Al Khatib, told Reuters.

Mr. Khatib said he expected 1998 would also see a recovery in demand from the local construction and housing sectors, after a slowdown earlier this year which hit profits in the first six months of 1997.

"We expect a pickup in local demand in 1998 with infrastructure projects con-

ing up and housing for a young population, there are always large needs," said Mr. Khatib.

The company's current 3.9 million tonnes annual capacity can cope with a substantial pickup in construction activity and better regional sales. This year's output is expected to be around 3.5 million tonnes.

"Our target is to export as much as we can from the surplus," Mr. Khatib added, stressing that the company's priority was sales to the local market.

This year's slowdown in the construction sector which depressed local sales of cement was partly offset by an 11.5 per cent growth in exports so far this year, Mr. Khatib said.

Local sales fell around 14 per cent in the first nine months of the year to 1.67 million tonnes.

JCF total exports from the start of the year until Oct. 13 rose 11.5 per cent to 770,883 tonnes from 691,605 tonnes in the same period last year.

Syria topped Jordan's export markets until end of September with 276,373 tonnes of cement followed by Malaysia which imported 116,450 tonnes. Another 111,549 tonnes were exported to Mauritius while Palestinian self-rule areas imported 89,784 tonnes.

Yemen imported 59,409 tonnes, Sudan 34,231 tonnes and Saudi Arabia 29,421 tonnes.

With a capitalisation of 60.4 million dinar (\$85 million), the company is one of the largest on Jordan's stock exchange. It has been a recent target of foreign investor interest as global funds build up positions in the Amman bourse.

Mr. Khatib was optimistic of higher profits in 1997 as third quarter results help accelerate a recent recovery from a setback in sales earlier in the year.

"Growth in sales continued and the upward trend we saw is still growing and we hope that this will allow our results to be better than last year, Mr. Khatib said.

Company figures showed its net profits in the nine months to Sept. 30 rose to 7.4 million dinars (\$10.4 million) from 6.0 million at the end of August when it began to recover from a weaker first half performance.

The company said a rapid pickup in sales was narrowing the fall in profits compared to the same period in 1996 and it forecast the recovery would continue through the rest of the year.

By mid-October sales were just two per cent down from the same period last year, Mr. Khatib said.

Gross profits at the end of September were 16.5 million dinars against 17.3 million in the same period last year.

The company said half-year results had been negatively affected by increased energy prices from May last year, while cement prices did not increase until April 1997.

A slowdown in the construction sector has weakened local sales of cement.

Production from JCF's two plants is not expected to rise substantially in 1997 from last year's 3.5 million tonnes.

Despite delays, the government says it still plans to go ahead with a sale of a 33 per cent stake in JCF by year end.

Government plans to sell JD100 million of shares in 10 firms to private sector

By Issam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government plans to sell around JD100 million worth of shares in 10 public shareholding companies to the private sector before the end of the year, according to official sources.

The government has already put up for sale its JD6 million worth of shares in the Jordan Worsteds Mills Company, the Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company, the Jordan Tanning Company and the Paper and Cardboard Com-

pany.

However, sources at the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), the government's investment arm, did not rule out many available options for selling part of the government's shares in Jordan Cement Factories Company before the end of the year, as part of a large-scale share-selling transactions that include government shares in such companies as Jordan Ceramics Company, Main Spa Complex and Alia Hotel, JIC Investment Director Abdul Elah Al Rousan said the government is carefully examining the possibility of

selling its shares in the Main Spa and the cement company and that it is looking for the best options available.

He did not rule out the possibility of selling 33 per cent of the 49.5 per cent total government's equity in the cement company in the international market.

"We take into consideration all options and we are looking for an international strategic partner," he said.

The market value of the government's shares in the cement company is estimated at approximately JD100 million. As such, the value of the 33 per cent equity, or the

equivalent of 19.9 million shares, is estimated at JD66.6 million. The company's total assets as of June 30 was JD188.8 million, while its capital is JD60.4 million.

The government has already sold 60,000 of its shares in the Jordan Himme Company for JD2.1 million, calculated at JD3.5 per share.

The government has also put up for sale 40,000 shares in Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company, but no offers for purchasing the shares were received. The market value of the shares on sale is JD800,000 calculated at the latest share price, amounting

to JD20.

The company's capital is JD1.5 million, or the equivalent of 300,000 shares at the nominal value of JD5 per share.

The government is also inviting tenders to sell 70 per cent of its shares in Alia Hotel as part of a deal which officials said it will take place imminently.

In another move, the government is currently studying several measures before taking a final decision on selling 1.5 million of its shares in the Irbid District Electric Power Company, according to Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Mobammad Saleh Hourani.

Mr. Hourani said the government has postponed for several weeks its decision on nine offers from major international companies to buy the shares. However, he added, the deal will be finalised soon.

The minister cited the following three reasons for postponing its decision on the sale deal: The government's subsidy to the Jordan Electricity Company, formerly known as Jordan Electricity Authority, the electricity tariff, concession and generation of energy as well as the representation of the foreign investors who will buy the shares on the company's board of directors.

The government owns 51 per cent of the company's capital, or the equivalent of 1.5 million shares whose total value is JD3.9 million at the current share price of JD2.6.

Observers say the share price does not reflect the actual value of the company's assets but, however, they point out that the price has become closer to its actual value following the announcement by the government that it is going to sell its shares in the company.

Mr. Hourani also said that a total of 17 international companies have submitted tenders to construct and operate an electricity generation plant at a capacity of 350 megawatts. He noted that a tender will be offered before the end of the year to construct the plant.

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates		Prices as at 14/10/97 19:31									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	AUD	NZD	HKD	TWD	THB	SGD
US Dollar	1.7541	0.6174	1.4609	121.61	138.16	1716.00	1.9752	5.8830			
DE Mark	0.5701	-	0.6517	0.8327	66.26	0.7872	0.7735	1.1241	3.3535		
GB Sterling	1.6196	2.8432	-	2.9824	197.04	2.2376	2.7800	3.2000	9.5310		
CH Franc	0.6845	119.98	0.4222	83.20	0.8448	1174.22	194.33	4.0522			
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4416	0.5073	1.2006	-	1.1352	14.08	162.34	4.8360		
CA Dollar	0.7238	1.2660	0.4471	1.3525	1.14	0.8865	1.2437	1.2577			
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0216	0.3585	0.0851	1412.83	0.8045	-	11.51	1.4473		
NL Guilder	0.5065	88.77	0.3721	1.332	61.82	0.8882	887.28	2.9758			
FR Franc	0.1700	0.2978	0.1048	2.8127	20.64	0.2346	33.55	33.5500			

Middle Eastern Currencies		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	AUD	NZD	HKD	TWD	THB	SGD
US Dollar	1.4104	0.7090	3.7504	0.3770	3.8400	0.3038	3.8729	1537.00	3.3995			
Jordan Dinar	0.2686	0.1890	0.1005	0.97	0.0810	0.98	409.82	0.9064				
Saudi Riyal	2.85	1.8806	0.9477	2.66	0.8865	1.2437	1.2577					
Bahrain Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0303	1.0303	0.0835	1.01	422.25	0.8338				
Qatar Dinar	3.2910	2.3333	12.3423	1.2407	11.98	12.09	508.25	0.8338				
Kuwait Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0208	0.9910	0.0827	418.47	0.8258				
Emirates Dinar	0.65	0.4813	2.4401	0.2435	2.3882	0.1977	2.3887	2.3778				
Lebanese/1000	0.2942	0.2086	1.1032	0.1109	1.0707	0.0894	1.0804	432.13				
Egyptian												

Mid-East Currencies		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	AUD	NZD	HKD	TWD	THB	SGD
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.1890	0.1005	0.97	0.0810	0.98	409.82	0.9064				
AE Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0208	0.9910	0.0827	418.47	0.8258				
KW Dinar	3.2910	2.3333	12.3423	1.2407	11.98	12.09	508.25	0.8338				
BH Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0208	0.9910	0.0827	418.47	0.8258				
QY Pound	1.2321	3.3751	1.1676	2.8109	233.932							

Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	AUD	NZD	HKD	TWD	THB	SGD
Brent	20.05	20.26										
W. Tera	21.27	21.31										
Bonny	20.05	20.26										
Dubai	19.19	19.23										
UL Gas	197.00	194.00										

Main Equity Indices		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	AUD	NZD	HKD	TWD	THB	SGD
New York	DOW JONES	8066.82	-5.4	-0.07	8112.25	8068.08	8072.22					
New York	S&P 500	967.58	-0.52	-0.05	972.88	967.58	968.1					
London	FT-SE 100	5298.9	-1.2	-0.02	5302.9	5272	5300.1					
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	17306.38	-101.69	-0.58	17478.3	16967.7	17204.7					
Paris	CAC 40	3005.84	4.58	0.15	3011.13	2975.13	3000.88					
Frankfurt	DAX	4202.37	-28.08	-0.67	4210.42	4172.23	4221.4					

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/10/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	F / E	OIV.	NO. OF TRAME.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
346,000	241.500	ARAB BANK	15.1	1.22	10	340	112040	331.50	328.00	3.50	-
2,340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	20	10000	18974	1.91	1.89	-	-02
1,190	0.890	MID. EAST TRV. BK.	74.2	0.00	3	2700	3051	1.13	1.13	-	-
2,600	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.3	6.11	16	4925	12770	2.58	2.59	-	+01
5,200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.9	3.99	3	11150	55527	4.98	4.98	-	-
1,050	0.740	JOR. GULF BANK	4.7	8.94	4	700	553	1.80	1.79	-	-01
4,050	3.500	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	3.28	11	1773	6512	3.68	3.66	-	-02
3,900	3.080	JOR. INV. FRM. BANK	24.9	0.00	3	500	1943	3.88	3.88	-	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 236.35 %CHG: -0.88 70 32098 211368											
2,050	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.3	5.18	42	36514	70456	1.93	1.93	-	-
4,030	1,320	IRSID ELECTRICITY	20.8	3.30	5	600	2114	3.40	3.49	-	+09
1,550	0.930	KAYLA PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	5	1180	1474	1.30	1.28	-	-02
1,740	1,150	KID. EAST HOTELS	21.0	0.00	2	67	32	1.39	1.39	-	-01
3,720	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.4	0.00	16	6750	24262	3.54	3.52	-	-04
1,170	0.920	SARKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	5	5200	4784	1.92	1.92	-	-
2,230	1,630	UNITED CO.	8.4	6.21	1	500	885	1.76	1.77	-	+01
950	0.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	4	2000	1540	1.79	1.77	-	-02
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.33 %CHG: +0.24 82 52856 105643											
4,450	3,220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	21.9	3.38	24	19767	64970	3.33	3.25	-	-08
7,050	5,430	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.0	0.00	4	450	2700	6.00	6.00	-	-
11,100	9,070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.7	8.08	13	1208	13288	11.00	11.00	-	-
7,200	4,500	JORDAN TANNING	5.9	6.19	1	150	728	4.70	4.85	-	+15
4,700	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.2	4.50	12	3168	14091	4.47	4.44	-	-03
7,280	5,200	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	5.1	4.00	1	100	500	5.20	5.20	-	-
1,760	1,230	JOR. PAPER MANFCT.	14.9	6.67	5	1250	1504	1.23	1.20	-	-03
6,000	4,300	DAR ALDAMA OF INV.	14.0	4.39	1	200	1140	5.80	5.70	-	-10
3,850	2,220	ARAB FERTIL. IND.	6.6	10.50	2	1050	2499	2.38	2.38	-	-
710	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.3	0.00	2	2100	1071	1.52	1.51	-	-01
1,230	820	ARAB PAPER CONV. IND.	27.2	0.00	4	2450	2181	0.89	0.89	-	-
1,330	770	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	500	395	1.76	1.77	-	+01
770	510	NATIONAL TIDS	9	0.00	6	1750	998	1.56	1.57	-	+01
1,200	510	ENTERED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	9	11750	6468	1.55	1.55	-	-
3,000	2,070	MAXI. CABLE WIRE. MFAC	35.3	0.00	1	100	220	2.20	2.20	-	-
290	590	JORDAN FUEL	9	0.00	10	5500	3763	1.69	1.69	-	-03
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	26	13950	18713	1.30	1.34	-	+04
1,880	1,060	UNIV. MED. IND.	17	1.21	8	5350	6636	1.24	1.24	-	-
1,070	810	JOR. BEN CABLE CO.	16.1	0.00	21	20100	17732	1.88	1.88	-	-
2,090	1,340	JOR. FAY READY WEAR	50.7	0.00	5	946	1361	1.47	1.44	-	-03
1,330	1,080	INTEL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	7	3000	3563	1.18	1.19	-	+01
1,200	0.650	UNION CH. & VEG.	51.6	0.00	2	2250	2565	1.14	1.14	-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 116.59 %CHG: -0.54 168 97167 175174											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 170.88 %CHG: -0.69 320 182111 484185											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/10/1997											
510	380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.4	0.00	36	89250	35450	4.11	3.99	-	-02
800	560	UNION INV. SOF	9	0.00	85	245320	71647	8.00	7.79	-	-01
570	360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	4	2000	800	4.00	4.00	-	-
590	720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	9	0.00	5	12390	11133	0.86	0.86	-	-
610	410	AL-SHARQ TR.	74.9	0.00	9	4680	2386	1.51	1.51	-	-
1,110	850	UNITED FOR FIRM. INV	57.3	0.00	1	500	550	1.05	1.10	-	+05
440	200	JOR. TRDS. MATCH-JERCO	9	0.00	2	3000	720	1.24	1.24	-	-
590	400	YORD FORD IND.	9	0.00	2	500	243	1.22	1.22	-	-
750	400	KAYLA. MULT. ENG. HANICO	9	0.00	8	4350	1794	1.41	1.41	-	-
1,020	890	READY MIX CONCRETE	12.7	0.00	2	450	473	1.00	1.05	-	+05
540	410	WATKIN DIES & MOLDOS	9	0.00	2	1750	151	0.85	0.87	-	+02
810	710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	6	411	3048	1.76	1.76	-	-
450	540	HIGHEST PHARM. 751	8	0.00	25	41945	16643	0.64	0.64	-	-
1,380	860	UNION TRISCOO 751	9	0.00	11	4680	5088	1.38	1.39	-	+01
730	550	KAY PHARM. 851	8	0.00	2	1000	510	0.66	0.66	-	-
490	290	TRDS. ENG.	9	0.00	4	3200	1088	3.34	3.34	-	-01
820	590	KAYT. POULTRY	9	0.00	4	1450	924	0.63	0.64	-	+01

Brits break sound barrier on land but miss record

GERLACH, Nevada (AFP) — A jet-powered British car Monday became the first ever to break the sound barrier on land but missed getting its feat in the record books.

Fifty years after the first supersonic flight, the British team twice broke the benchmark but failed to make two harrier-breaking runs within an hour as required to make it an official record.

Thrust SSC hit 1,229.77 kilometres per hour and then 1,223.28 kilometres per hour in a second run on the Nevada desert track, but finished the second run one minute after the hour window.

"We failed by one minute," British team leader Richard Noble told reporters after the vehicle missed its window for two runs in opposite directions.

When a drag parachute failed to open after the first run on the 20.9 kilometre course, the vehicle overshot the endpoint and took 61 minutes to turn around and get ready for the second run.

The supercar driven by British Royal Air Force pilot Andy Green broke the sound barrier a day before the 50th anniversary of U.S. pilot Chuck Yeager's first supersonic flight.

The Auto Club had originally said the runs missed the mark by 50 seconds, but on the British team's own internet website it acknowledged missing the deadline by one minute.

Green's 1,229.77 kilometre per hour run was 1.007 times the speed of sound or Mach 1 and the 1,223.28 sprint was 1.003 per cent of Mach.

The actual speed of sound can vary depending upon weather conditions, but the



Thrust SSC, a British jet car driven by RAF pilot Andy Green, breaks the sound barrier on run 62 reaching Mach 1.007 on the Black Rock Desert near Gerlach, Nevada. (Reuters photo)



Former land speed record holder American Craig Breedlove (L) congratulates British Thrust SSC team leader Richard Noble on the British Thrust SSC jet car breaking the sound barrier. (Reuters photo)

supercar must clear at least 1,207 kilometres per hour to break the sound barrier.

Thrust SSC, relying on a 7,650 kilogramme Avon 303 engine from a Lightning fighter, flashed across the desert leaving a huge trail of dust behind it and a muffled sonic boom.

The vehicle looks like a long pen with a tail booked

up to two turbojet engines that each produce 20,000 pounds of thrust — or the equivalent of 1,000 Ford Escorts or 145 Formula One racing cars.

The vehicle that weighs 10,000 kilos can accelerate from a standstill to 161 kilometres per hour in four seconds while burning 18.18 litres of gasoline per sec-

ond. Crews for both the British and American teams have been in the Black Rock desert for weeks, waiting for high winds kicking up sand to pass.

The team knew that should the nose of the vehicle lift by only a fraction the front wheels would come off the ground and the "car" would cartwheel to destruction.

The clear, quiet moment finally came Monday afternoon when the Spirit of America team — also in pursuit of breaking the barrier — ceded its testing time to the British team that was close to mark.

Green, 35, wore a "Panotex" driving suit engineered to withstand extreme heat and a Kevlar helmet integrated with an air mask which provides a guaranteed air supply for up to 30 minutes.

The Oxford University graduate said he began his career driving the world's fastest car by flying fighters for 10 years.

FIFA commissioner blames hooligans

ZURICH (AFP) — The FIFA Commissioner responsible for overseeing last Saturday's World Cup qualifier between Italy and England laid the blame for the violence squarely at the feet of the hooligans and not the Italian police here on Monday.

Rene Hussy sought to minimise the incidents that resulted in 28 arrests and which left 69 injured. He said that the vast majority of the supporters had been there for the purpose of watching the match — but a mindless minority had other things on their mind.

"Ninety nine per cent of the 75,000 spectators came to watch the match. I don't understand how we could not stop 150 hooligans making a nuisance of themselves," Hussy told AFP.

Sepp Blatter, secretary general of FIFA, said he would look over the reports from Hussy and Heinz Fährner, who was at the match to observe the security problems.

Fernand Sastre, Co-President of the 1998 World Cup finals, said that his body would learn the lessons from Saturday's incidents.

"What happened on Saturday will help us to be more vigilant and for those responsible for security arrangements to learn valuable lessons," Sastre said.

Wenger predicts more glory for protege Hoddle

LONDON (AFP) — Arsene Wenger, the man who encouraged Glenn Hoddle to become a coach, believes there is no limit to what his protege can now achieve after masterminding England's progress to the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Arsenal's French manager, who signed midfield star Hoddle from Tottenham for AS Monaco 10 years ago, admits he was cheering England in Rome from his fireside armchair on Saturday night.

"Naturally I was delighted for Glenn, because it was I who encouraged him to become a manager when he was a player of mine at Monaco," said Wenger.

"I have not been able to speak to him yet since he came back from Italy, because we are both busy — but I will congratulate him as soon as I can."

"I always knew he would do very well as a manager but even I am surprised at what he has achieved already in such a short time."

"His big strength is that he knows exactly what he wants to do and when he has convinced himself that it is the right way he goes with it 100 per cent."

"He will not put himself under too much pressure by listening too much to what everybody else has to say. Once he makes his mind up what is the right thing to do he will follow his own judgment and believe in his capability."

"I think I know him well, but sometimes he surprises even me. When he decided not to make Tony Adams his captain in Rome I thought that Adams would not play in the game at all."

"But Glenn decided what he thought was best for Tony, to let him concentrate on just his own game because he has been back for only a few matches in the Premiership since his injuries. And now nobody can say he wasn't right."

Such is the mutual respect between Hoddle and Wenger that the Frenchman was immediately sounded out for the job of FA technical director almost as soon as Hoddle had been appointed England coach.

Wenger, then with Japanese club Grampus Eight, turned it down, explaining he still wanted the day-to-day involvement of club management.

But Wenger, who has taken Arsenal to the top of the Premiership this season having joined them just over a year ago, said: "I always wanted England to win in Italy, and not just because I now earn my living in this country."

"I felt that the nation needed Glenn's team to get to the World Cup finals, especially after failing to reach America in 1994. There is a great passion for the game here, which was the biggest attraction for me coming here, and it has grown even bigger in that time."

"You only have to see what Euro 96 meant to the people of this country to realise how important it was for England to qualify for the finals in France."

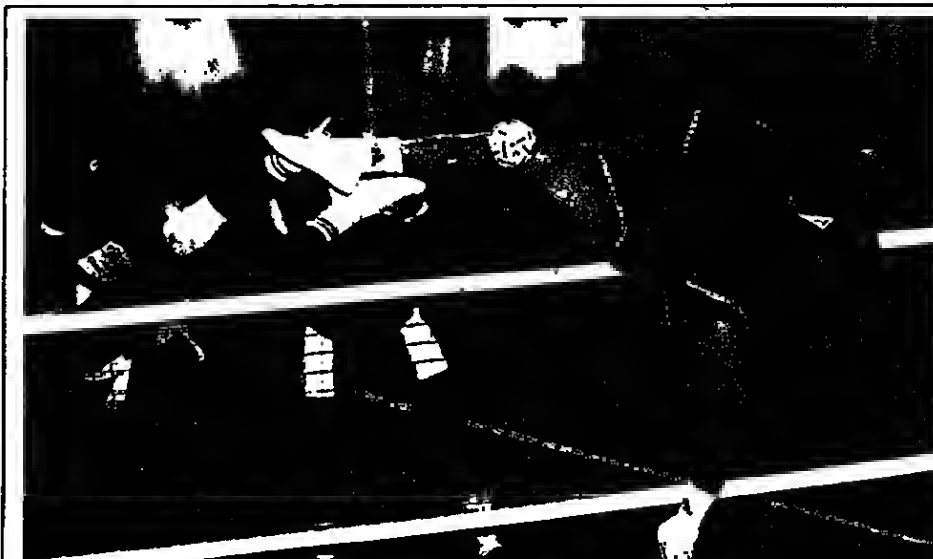
"But you are always pleased if you see that the team which deserves the reward most actually gets it."

"Now I think Glenn can achieve even bigger things and already I believe he has the whole country behind him."

"I wanted to go to Rome for the match on Saturday but could not get a flight from London because it was so popular. But from television I could see very early that if anybody was going to win the game it would be England. Italy never gave me the feeling they could score."

"You could tell the difference in attitude between the two teams. England were so consistent because they knew they only needed a draw, and Italy were over-stressed by the importance of the occasion."

"You could see this difference in the two managers as well. Maldini was very nervous, very stressed but Glenn always looked very calm."



Malaysia's Sefian Hanaffah (R) tries to block a kick by a Myanmar player during their elimination sepak takraw match at the SEA Games in Jakarta October 14, which Malaysia won 15-10, 15-7. Sepak takraw, unique to South East Asia, combines volleyball and soccer where the players use their feet and heads to put the ball over the volleyball-style net. (Reuters photo)

Redskins dump Dallas for division lead

LANDOVER (AFP) — Stephen Davis, replacing injured rusher Terry Allen, ran for a career-high 98 yards and two touchdowns to spark Washington past Dallas 21-16 in American football here Monday.

The Redskins rose to first place in the NFC East division at 4-2 and beat the Cowboys for the fourth time in their past five meetings.

The slumping Cowboys, still struggling to find offensive consistency, slid to 3-3 and fell to third in the NFC East behind Washington and the New York Giants, 4-2.

Allen departed with a sprained left knee in the first quarter as reserve Davis made the most of his chance, carrying 22 times and scoring on runs of two and four yards.

"Terry had a knee injury and I stepped up," Davis said. "The line did a great job."

Gus Frerotte, whose wife is expecting the couple's second child, completed 12-of-23 passes for 153 yards to help the Redskins improve to 3-0 in their new home stadium.

The Redskins' attack focused on rushing the ball directly at the Dallas defence, improving from barely three yards a rush last week to more than 4.5 yards per rush against the Cowboys.

"They move fast. We just had to rush at them," Davis said, of the Dallas defence. "That's what we wanted to do and the game plan worked to perfection."

Samaranch pushes China to make new Olympic bid

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Olympic supremo Juan Antonio Samaranch on Tuesday made his most public appeal yet for China to make a new bid to stage the world's biggest sporting event.

Speaking on the sidelines of China's National Games in Shanghai, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president also said golf would not become an Olympic sport before 2008 and urged all federations to make two years the maximum ban for drugs offences.

China was heated to the 2000 Games by Sydney and even this week Chinese officials expressed their displeasure, with Sports Minister Wu Shaoyu blaming "non-sports factors" for Australia's victory.

But the IOC has already said China has expressed an interest in the 2008 Games, with Beijing and Shanghai as the likely candidates.

Samaranch said China should apply again, the official Xinhua news agency reported. "Today, I'm sure, as President of IOC, that China has the ability to present an excellent Games to the world," he said.

"We are very interested in the People's Republic of China's efforts to promote high-level sports competition and at the same time promote sports education for the people," he added.

The IOC leader met President Jiang Zemin and a host of other sports leaders.

Samaranch, a supporter of Beijing's candidacy for 2000, was understood to have urged a new Chinese campaign.

Chinese sports officials have said no decision on a bid would be taken until after the National Games on October 24. But other cities have also expressed interest. The southern metropolis of Guangzhou has said it could host the 2008 Games with Hong Kong and Macau.

An election will probably field to choose a candidate city.

Golf could make its Olympic comeback in China, if it wins the 2008 Games. Samaranch said golf, which was an Olympic sport at the start of the century, would not return for at least another decade even though attempts were made to get it included in Atlanta last year.

"We're talking with international golf organizations but golf will not be in the Games before 2008," he said.

The IOC chief added that all the best professional athletes were wanted in the Olympics "if they respect the Olympic Charter."

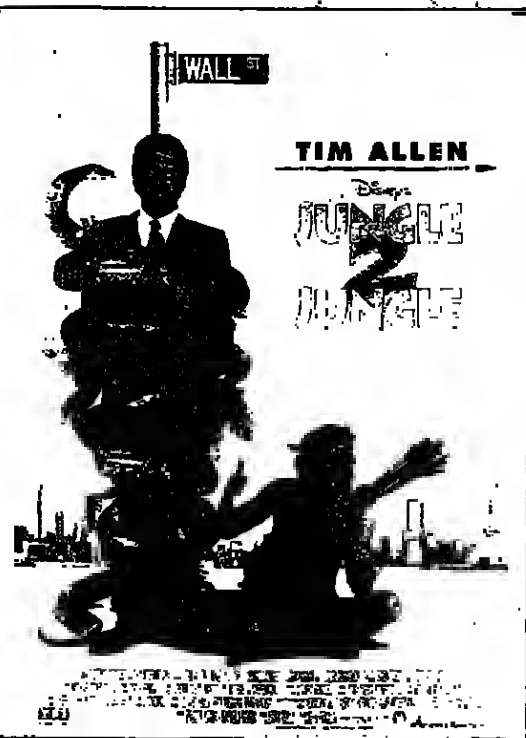
Samaranch came out in support of the International Amateur Athletic Federation decision to reduce from four to two years the ban for drug cheats.

He said: "It was a good decision. The punishment must be the same in all international federations. I think two years is enough."

Movies

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T O N I G H T
GALLERIA 1 GALLERIA 2



3:30 6:15 8:30 10:45

3:30 6:15 8:30 10:30

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PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Watch out for the new play THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas
Jessica Lange & Halle Berry ... in LOSING ISIAH	Tom Cruise ... in MISSION IMPOSSIBLE	Julia Roberts ... in MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING	Geena Davis & Samuel Jackson ... in THE LONG KISS GOOD NIGHT (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)	ABDOUN Will Smith & Tommy Lee Jones ... in MEN IN BLACK Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN Julia Roberts ... in MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "2" FAIR GAME Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only			

Swimming federation to implement 3-year plan for national team

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Swimming Federation has set a plan for the national team in preparation for major upcoming events, namely the Sydney Olympic games in 2000 and the 9th Pan-Arab Games in Jordan in 2001, JSF secretary Tala'at Nasser Tuesday told the Jordan Times.

"The team will be exposed to a three-year training schedule during which two swimmers will dedicate themselves to the team," he said.

The plan which is considered the first to be implemented to a national team will include the best swimmers in the Kingdom.

"We have asked the committee to name the swimmers, and until now we have six of the best," he added.

The national team includes five girls and five boys.

"We have Rania Ghosheh, Hana Majaj and Hiba Nasser for the girls team, and Loay Haqqi, Fares Nasser and Ala'a Wazani for the boys," said Nasser.

The team will undergo a strict training

regime which includes fitness, food and swimming.

"We will discuss the plan with the parents so we can have full commitment to the programme," he pointed out.

Nasser said the federation is studying the possibility of recruiting a new coach from an Asian country.

"Probably a coach from China will take over the mission of training the team," he said.

"We have high hopes in this plan and in our swimmers who took advanced places in several competitions."

Jordan's Hana Majaj took the bronze medal in the last Pan-Arab Games which took place in Lebanon in July.

Concerning the new swimming pool, the JSF secretary said that the federation is studying the final blueprints of the project to have an Olympic-size swimming pool.

"We still need time to calculate the cost and the financial support we need to finish the project," he said.

Like many federations, the JSF is facing some financial problems which led them to cancel participation in the South West Asian Games in Tehran (see separate story).

Top 4 sports federations decline participation in S. West Asian Games

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four of the country's most successful sports federations — basketball, table tennis, boxing and fencing — have declined participation in the upcoming South West Asian Games which will be held in Tehran, Iran Nov. 19-28.

At a meeting with the Jordan Olympic Committee's technical committee attended by JOC Vice-Chairman Mouaffaq Fawwaz and Secretary-General Ismat Kurdi, eight federations confirmed participation. They are: Gymnastics, athletics, wrestling, shooting, badminton, equestrian, tennis, handball while cycling was still undecided.

The JOC will this week finalise discussions about the nature of the Kingdom's participation in the event, open to men's teams only.

The Iranian Olympic Committee has offered to cover accommodation leaving only air-fare to be paid by the respective participating federations.

However, that is the reason cash-strapped federations have shied away, with their budget's unable to cover the expenses needed having not yet paid their 40 per cent in expenses at

the Pan-Arab Games which were held in Beirut in July. The JOC itself is still JD 50,000 short of covering the over JD 100,000 incurred cost.

Jordan gained more gold medals in Beirut than in the past 7 Pan-Arab Games altogether, capping the best Jordanian participation to date since the event was first held in 1953.

Jordan took a total of 40 medals, including 10 gold, 8 silver and 22 bronze medals, in the two-week-long event.

The Kingdom finished fifth among the 19 participating countries compared to 9th overall in the 1992 Games in Syria where Jordan earned only 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

The JOC announced that excellent athletes and medals winners would be sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Youth or the JOC.

Onlookers have criticised the JOC for asking the overburdened federations to cover expenses when their annual budgets do not correspond to their expenses — a fact that leads many excellent federations to miss participation.

The four declining federations all had either impressive results at the Pan-Arab Games or are considered to have good teams that should be best prepared for the 9th Pan-Arab Games

in 2001 which will be held in Jordan.

The boxers won five medals, fencing also earned a bronze medal and table tennis took two bronze in both the doubles and the team event.

While basketball failed to earn a medal, Jordan has regrouped a new lineup of young stars who finished 6th in Lebanon and 7th in the recently-concluded Asian championship. Jordan was Arab champion in the 1985 Pan-Arab Games.

On the other hand, only two of the federations participating in the Tehran Games were impressive in Beirut with athletics and weightlifting earning five medals each.

In shooting, Jordan was eliminated from the top six qualifying positions and the equestrian team failed in the Grand Prix and finished at a disappointing 7th place among 8 competing teams in the team event.

Gymnastics, badminton, tennis and handball did not take part in Beirut and their competitive form is relatively unknown.

Paris-bound Bulls fall without two stars

CHICAGO (AFP) — Reigning National Basketball Association champion Chicago left here Monday night for the world club championship in Paris with a bad omen, losing 84-83 to NBA rival Atlanta.

Anthony Miller's free throw with three seconds remaining gave the Hawks a triumph after the Bulls evened the game at 83 on a free throw by Bill Wennington with eight seconds to play.

Toni Kukoc fouled Miller, who missed the first free throw but made the second for Atlanta, 3-0 in NBA exhibition play. Michael Jordan had a game-high 15 points for the Bulls, now 1-2.

After the game, the Bulls departed by plane to France for the global event against Greece's Olympiakos Piraeus, PSG Racing of France, Italy's Treviso, Barcelona of Spain and Argentina's Atenas of Cordoba.

NBA clubs have won seven titles in a row and all 14 games they have played at the tournament, but the Bulls enter without Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman, increasing the pressure on superstar Jordan.

"The biggest thing is the NBA has never lost," Jackson said. "That puts a big onus on the NBA teams that go over there, especially with European teams practicing since August. They have a two-month head start. They're ready to play."

The event also worries Jackson somewhat because Pippen is sidelined by foot surgery for up to three months and Dennis Rodman has agreed to contract terms but not signed a contract.

Jackson especially laments the absence of Rodman, who has agreed to terms but has yet to sign a contract.

Raising his game a notch to offset Rodman's absence

is Australian center Luc Longley, who has played well in three exhibition games.

Jordan will be the main Paris attraction on a Bulls team that has won five titles in seven years but looks to break apart after the coming season, which opens October 31.

Bulls' owners said they will not retain Jackson after this year. Jordan has vowed to play for no other coach and the Bulls have made it clear they consider Pippen expendable.

Jackson warns that he is likely not to be coaching an NBA club next season and he believes Jordan is serious about leaving the game, although he admits he would try to talk Jordan out of leaving just because he does.

"I appreciate his loyalty. I believe he is sincere," Jackson said. "I have told him I don't want him to limit his career if I quit or resign from the Bulls."

"He doesn't want to go into a new system or deal with new players. He's doing it for fun and to win another championship. To be there to change or rebuild a dynasty into another one is not what he wants."

"I encourage him if he thinks he has anything in his tank to keep going and play the game so many people love to see him play."

Kansas University coach Roy Williams, who recruited Michael Jordan to the University of North Carolina, denies he is a candidate to replace Phil Jackson as coach of the Bulls next year.

But Williams and Jordan spoke twice after an exhibition in Kansas on Saturday and Williams has been a frequent visitor to Bulls' practices in past years.

Jordan has said he would not play for anyone other than Jackson, but a longtime friend like Williams might be enough to make the NBA legend reconsider.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

United bid \$20 million for Salas

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — English champions Manchester United have bid \$20 million for Argentine champions River Plate's Chilean striker Jose Marcelo 'Matador' Salas, it was reported here Thursday. Manchester assistant manager Brian Kidd was in Santiago last Sunday to watch Salas score a hat-trick for Chile in their World Cup qualifier against Peru, Buenos Aires newspapers said.

Francis adds to Spurs injury woes

LONDON (AFP) — Tottenham's injury crisis took a twist on Monday when manager Gerry Francis was forced to add yet another name to the long list of casualties at the English Premiership club — his own. Udder-fire Francis, whose side have managed only two League wins all season and none in the last six games, injured his back at the weekend while playing with his children at home. He went to hospital on Monday for an X-ray and is rated very doubtful to make an appearance for Wednesday's League Cup tie with Derby.

Italian fan blinded in one eye

ROME (AFP) — An Italian fan lost the sight in one eye after being hit in the face with a bottle by an England fan before Saturday night's World Cup qualifier, it emerged on Monday. Alberto Mu, 24, was attacked by a group of England fans in the early hours of Saturday morning. Mu, who is married with a young daughter, underwent surgery for his injuries, but has lost the sight in his left eye. Mu said he, his sister and some friends had left a nightclub in central Rome and realised, as they made their way to their cars, that he was out of cigarettes. He headed to a nearby tobacconist but came up against a group of four drunken England fans who began abusing him and then attacked him, one of them hitting him in the face with the bottle. British ministers, including premier Tony Blair, have criticised the Italian authorities for their handling of the match.

Villeneuve appeal date set

PARIS (AFP) — Current Formula One leader Jacques Villeneuve's appeal against his disqualification from the Japanese Grand Prix will be heard on October 21 FIA, the sport's governing body, said here on Monday. The 26-year-old Canadian, who was allowed to race in the Grand Prix despite being disqualified for violating yellow-flag rules in Saturday's free practice session, had his appeal lodged by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) on behalf of the Williams team, for whom he drives. Villeneuve, son of the late Ferrari driver Gilles, currently leads dual world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany by one point — 79 to 78. Should he lose his appeal, forfeiting the two points he earned for fifth place on Sunday, he would trail the German by one point going into October 26 final Grand Prix in Jerez, Spain.

Orioles stay alive in playoffs

CLEVELAND (AFP) — Baltimore nearly squandered a four-run lead with one inning to play but avoided elimination from the American League championship series with a 4-2 victory over Cleveland here Monday.

The triumph pulled the Orioles within three games to two in the best-of-seven series with game six scheduled for Baltimore on Wednesday. The Orioles must win to force a seventh game on Thursday.

"This was a great win," Orioles' third baseman Cal Ripken said. "We feel pretty confident going home."

Baltimore pulled ahead 4-0 in the ninth inning when pinch-hitter Eric Davis, taking chemotherapy treatment for colon cancer, belted a home run that proved to be the winning run.

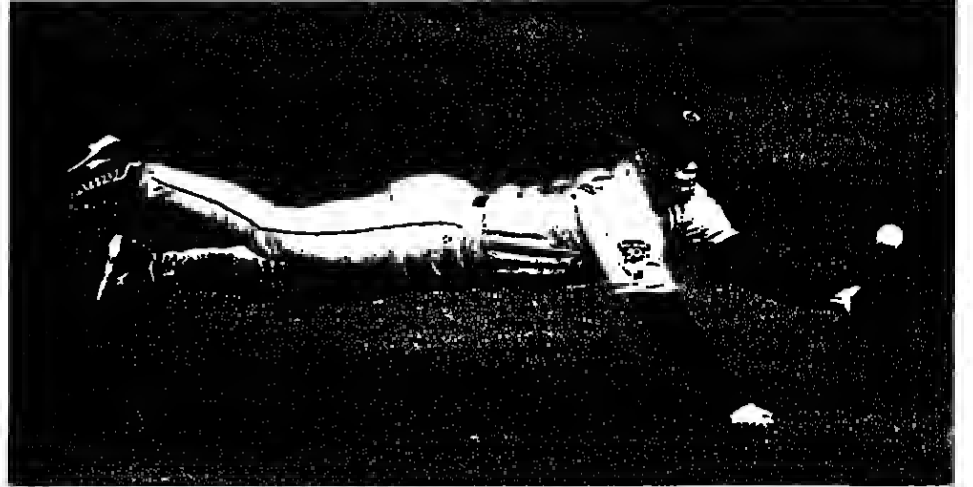
Cuban-born Rafael Palmeiro doubled and scored on Ripken's single to provide the Orioles their final run.

The Orioles had lost their four previous playoff games when facing elimination, dating back to the 1973 American League playoffs, but won here to sustain hopes of reaching their first World Series since 1983.

"We don't have any pressure," Davis said. "Our main goal was to get it back home. We still have two to win."

Davis, who missed 3 1/2 months after being diagnosed with cancer in June, rated the homer one of the three greatest in his career. He has another treatment scheduled for Friday.

"Hopefully I will have to



Baltimore Orioles' second baseman Roberto Alomar dives but misses a hit by Cleveland Indians' Brian Giles in the fourth inning of game five of the American League Championship series at Jacobs Field in Cleveland. (Reuters photo)

do it before the World Series," he said.

The homer was only the second pinch-hit homer by Baltimore this year, the first since Jeff Reboulet hit one at Detroit on July 6.

The Indians refused to quit, slugging away at Orioles' closing relief pitcher Randy Myers, who led the major leagues in finishing off opponents this season but struggled to seal down Cleveland.

"Randy doesn't like to do anything easy," Davis joked.

David Justice singled to right field and scored on a double by Matt Williams, who came home to pull Cleveland within 4-2 when Tony Fernandez slapped a one-out double to left field.

Marquis Grissom, who won game two with a homer and game three by racing home on a passed ball, slapped a ground ball off the glove of pitcher Myers for a single that advanced Fernandez to third base.

Myers struck out Bip Roberts for the second out but Grissom stole second base on the final swing, putting two runners in scoring position for Venezuela's Omar Vizquel.

A single could have equalized the game, but Vizquel hit a ground out to Roberto Alomar to end the game.

"This team has felt loose and confident in every game," said Baltimore manager Davey Johnson, whose club has lost on a controversial call and two poor showings by typically reliable reliever Armando Benitez.

In Major League Baseball history, 41 of 49 teams have won when leading 3-1 in a best-of-seven series, although the Indians entered as the underdog after having the worst record of any AL playoff club.

"As crazy as this series has been, I don't see how anybody could take comfort going back to Baltimore," Cleveland manager Mike Hargrove said.

Mike Mussina, the Orioles' top pitcher, will start game six against Cleveland's Charles Nagy. Scott Erickson will throw his third game of the series for the Orioles in game seven if needed against Orel Hershey.

The Baltimore-Cleveland winner will face the National League champion in the World Series starting Saturday. Florida leads Atlanta 3-2 in that best-of-seven matchup with game six in Atlanta on Tuesday.

Geronimo Berroa singled home Chris Hoiles

and Brady Anderson to the third inning to put the Orioles ahead 2-0.

Orioles starter Scott Kamieniecki took the victory despite leaving with a stiff right elbow after five scoreless innings.

"We're not done," Kamieniecki said. "We still have a chance. Until you deep-six us we will come out fighting."

Vizquel paid homage to Kamieniecki, saying, "He kept us off balance all night."

Relief pitcher Jimmy Key, who struggled through four difficult innings as a starter in game two, hurled three shutout innings in relief.

"To come in and contribute to a win after basically being taken out of the starting rotation was very important for me," said Key, the man who wooed last year's final World Series game for the New York Yankees.

Cleveland's Chad Ogea suffered the loss.

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Australia gearing up for 75,000 crowd for World Cup play-off

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Australian football officials are hoping for a record 75,000 crowd for Australia's World Cup play-off against an Asian nation here late next month.

Tickets went on sale Tuesday and 12,000 tickets were snapped up in the opening few hours for the Melbourne Cricket Ground decider on November 29.

Soccer Australia (SA), who lost heavily financially in Australia's Oceania region play-offs in June, intend splashing out on an advertising campaign featuring their expensive English manager Terry Venables.

"Football... Aussie Rules, don't they?" says Venables in the advert.

Venables and his unbeaten Socceroos have raised the profile of the national team so much that SA was prepared to gamble on moving the game from its traditional big-game venue in Sydney to Melbourne.

The Victorian state government also took the plunge, underwriting a guaranteed crowd of 62,000 to switch the game to the MCG, where 90,000 fans watched this year's Australia-New Zealand Bledisloe Cup rugby international.

SA official Stefan Kamasz said early signs were better than anticipated before the onset of the advertising campaign.

"As each day goes by the feedback we are getting is more encouraging and I think we could exceed 75,000 to 80,000 — some people are already talking about a sell-out," he said of the 100,000-capacity arena.

Australia will play off for a place at next June's World Cup finals against the fourth-placed team in the Asian qualifying series.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANIAH HIRSH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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WARSAW (AFP) — Poland has agreed to buy Israeli antitank missiles in a deal worth close to a billion dollars. Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati announced Tuesday, sparking a row with the incoming Solidarity-led government.

The deal, one of the last made by the outgoing former-communist government, is conditional on the missiles being successfully test-fired in Poland. Mr. Rosati said, and is subject to government ratification.

But Marian Krzaklewski, whose Solidarity Election Action (AWS) party swept to victory in the Sept. 21 general election, denounced the deal as invalid Tuesday.

"It's irresponsible, we have demanded that no important contracts be signed before the formation of the new government. It offends all those who have elected the new parliament." Mr. Krzaklewski added.

The party's vice-president Janusz Tomaszewski said the deal would be subjected to "a detailed analysis to know if the Israeli missiles are the best choice for the Polish army and the arms industry."

He said it would also jeopardize Poland's entry into NATO, agreed at the last NATO summit in July.

AWS is the largest party in Poland following last month's elections, when it defeated the ruling former communist Democratic Left Alliance. But it needs the backing of smaller parties such as UW, which finished in third place, to form a majority in parliament.

The 5,000 missiles, which can be attached to the Polish-made Huzar attack helicopter, will be assembled at factories in Poland, staffing off job losses at two of Poland's major armaments companies, Mesko and PZL.

"The accord was signed by the Economics Minister [Wieslaw Kaczmarek] and must still be ratified by the government, a task we will leave for the new cabinet," said the outgoing Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz.

The U.S. had pressured Warsaw to buy local, arguing that Poland, as a new NATO member, should buy its military hardware from one of its alliance partners.

U.S. company Rockwell's offer to manufacture its Hellfire missiles in Poland was made too late to affect the outcome of the negotiations with the Israelis.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Orthodox legislators said Tuesday they will bring down Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's government unless he gets legislation passed by November that will block recognition of Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel.

The ultimatum came after the government's effort of the past few months to find a compromise failed.

At the core of the dispute is the fight over control of religion in Israel. The Orthodox have a monopoly, but the reform and conservative movements, which are prevalent in the U.S. have been seeking a greater role in Israel.

The religious establishment's ultimatum was to be delivered Tuesday afternoon in a meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and six Orthodox lawmakers, said Shaul Yahalom of the National Religious Party. The three Orthodox parties have 23 legislators in Mr. Netanyahu's 66-member coalition and can easily bring it down.

However, if Mr. Netanyahu consents and rams the legislation through parliament, he will risk splitting world Jewry and alienating American Jews, including some of his most powerful supporters.

If the hills are passed, "it will give us a gut feeling of insult and rejection," said Uri Regev, head of the reform movement in Israel. "The Jewish people are at a crossroads."

Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman, David Bar-Ilan, said the prime minister would try to persuade the Orthodox legislators in the meeting not to close the door to negotiations.

However, Mr. Yahalom said any compromise proposals made by a government-appointed committee headed by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, an observant Jew, were unacceptable.

The committee has not completed its work, but some of the emerging proposals have been leaked, alarming the chief rabbis and Orthodox politicians who held an emergency meeting Monday.

One of the disputes deals with conversions to Judaism performed in Israel. The Orthodox want legislation passed that would encode the current practice of recognizing only Orthodox conversion performed in Israel. The Neeman Committee reportedly proposed establishing a Conversions Institute with representatives from the three streams.

The committee also considered the possibility of having reform and conservative rabbis perform weddings in Israel in the presence of a supervisor from the chief rabbinate. Until now, weddings and divorces have been strictly the domain of the Orthodox.

Mr. Yahalom said that in light of what the committee is proposing, the Orthodox are now determined to get the conversions bill passed in parliament without further delay.

A second bill — which has yet to be submitted — would bar reform and conservative candidates from being seated on local religious councils.

NAQOURA (AFP) — The international committee monitoring the ceasefire agreement in south Lebanon met Tuesday to discuss a complaint filed by Israel over an alleged truce violation last week.

The five-nation panel convened at 11:05 a.m. at the headquarters of the U.N. peacekeeping force in the town of Naqoura near the Israeli border, a source close to the Lebanese delegation said.

Israel lodged a complaint with the committee after mortar shells fired into the village of Majdal Selm Oct. 8 in the self-declared Israeli security zone in south Lebanon injured a Lebanese civilian.

Israel accused Hizbollah, which spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel out of southern Lebanon, of carrying out the attack.

Under their 1996 ceasefire agreement, Israel and Hizbollah are supposed to avoid targeting civilians and refrain from launching attacks from civilian areas.

The truce committee, comprised of representatives from France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the U.S., was set up to monitor compliance with the agreement.

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

NAZZAL — Increasing economic hardships and decreasing living standards are more likely to keep many voters away from the polls than the Muslim Brotherhood's call for a general boycott, residents in Amman's First and Second Districts say.

In these underprivileged and densely populated areas in eastern Amman, home to many Palestinian refugees and returnees from the Gulf, people express frustration at inadequate infrastructure and mounting unemployment.

Much more than their neighbours in the affluent Third District, across from Wadi Abdoun, residents in the First and Second Districts feel they are paying the price of economic reforms and last year's lifting of state subsidies on many commodities.

Voicing their disappointment for what they consider the unfulfilled promises of the deputies in the 1989 and 1993 Parliaments, they seem to be growing more and more apathetic towards politics.

According to the Ministry of Interior, around 140,000 and 130,000 voters are registered in the First and Second District, respectively.

However, people are largely deserting the colourful tents that candidates have set up to offer coffee and sweets in a bid to lure voters, and all those interviewed by the Jordan Times said they did not collect their voting cards and did not even know anybody who had.

"I voted in 1989 and in 1993, but what did [the former deputies in the 11th and 12th Parliaments] do for the people?" asked one shopkeeper in the Nazzal market.

"The prices of bread, sugar, milk, and electricity went up," complained the owner of a small stationery shop next door.

"They promised health centres and schools, and we never saw any of [their promises materialise]. Now they are promising the same things, but why should we believe them again?" asked one woman.

Many of the residents here supported the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), in the last elections.

In both districts, the IAF won two of the three allocated seats. Former First District IAF Deputies Abdul Aziz Jaber and Theeb Abdallah obtained around 12,000 votes collectively.

Former Second District IAF Deputies Abdul Mun'im Abu Zant and Harmez Mansour won around 18,000 votes between them.

Notwithstanding the support the Muslim Brotherhood and the IAF have traditionally enjoyed in these districts, many people said it is not because of the Islamists' call for a general boycott that they intend to desert the Nov-4 polls, but rather because of their overall disappointment with the IAF performance in previous parliaments.

"I tried the IAF twice, and I would not have voted for them a third time even if they were running," said one eligible voter in the First District, echoing many similar comments.

Regardless of the way their previous deputies voted in Parliaments (IAF deputies voted en masse against the peace treaty with Israel and boycotted the voting on the lifting of bread subsidies), many former IAF supporters here accuse their representatives of simply not having done enough.

Some of the 38 candidates running in both districts (22 in the First and 16 in the Second District), however, fear that the Islamists could still have a profound influence on voters.

ment. It offends all those who have elected the new parliament," Mr. Krzaklewski added.

The party's vice-president Janusz Tomaszewski said the deal would be subjected to "a detailed analysis to know if the Israeli missiles are the best choice for the Polish army and the arms industry."

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Israel accused Hizbollah, which spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel out of southern Lebanon, of carrying out the attack.

Under their 1996 ceasefire agreement, Israel and Hizbollah are supposed to avoid targeting civilians and refrain from launching attacks from civilian areas.

The truce committee, comprised of representatives from France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the U.S., was set up to monitor compliance with the agreement.

CAIRO (AP) — A former insane asylum inmate on Tuesday went on trial for killing nine German tourists last month, saying he meant to attack Jews and was ready to "kill even a hundred, or even two hundred" of them.

Saber Abu Al Ulla told reporters before a court hearing that he carried out the attack to avenge a cartoon drawn by an Israeli-Jewish woman earlier this year, depicting Prophet Muhammad as a pig.

"I wish I could have gotten to her," Abu Al Ulla said, speaking from behind a steel cage inside the courtroom. The comments were his first public admission of guilt.

He and his brother, Mahmoud, are charged with premeditated murder in the shooting and firebombing of a tourist bus on Sept. 18 in a brazen attack outside the Egyptian Museum, which houses some of the world's greatest pharaonic treasures.

The government has denied that the attack was linked to Islamist groups, which have been waging an insurgency since 1992 to topple President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and replace it with Islamist rule. The prosecution says the two brothers acted alone. Seven men who sold them arms or ammunition or acted as middlemen for purchasing the arms have been named co-defendants and are facing trial along with the brothers.

PARIS (R) — Islamists cut the throats of between 33 and more than 50 bus passengers at a fake roadblock near a town in western Algeria, Algerian newspapers said on Tuesday.

The attack, near Sig town, 330 km west of Algiers, was the worst single massacre in the roan region which has largely been spared the violence that erupted nearly six years ago.

La Tribune newspaper put the toll in the attack overnight Sunday-Monday at more than 50 and said among the victims were many children and women. Another 15 passengers were wounded, shot as they tried to flee, with another 20 motorists wounded as the rebels opened fire at random at passing cars.

Liberte said 43 bus passen-

NICOSIA (R) — Cat-and-mouse air games between Greek and Turkish warplanes over Cyprus on Sunday and Monday have soured peace efforts on the divided island, diplomats said on Tuesday.

Athens charged Turkey of mass violations of its airspace on Sunday and Monday, culminating in the harassment of a C-130 Hercules transport carrier bringing its Defence Minister Akis Tsoharopoulos to the island on Monday afternoon.

Green fighter jets intercepted the Turkish planes, Athens said. Ankara denied the claims.

"This is a setback. Things have been looking pretty grim since the summer and this is

just another example of how Cyprus gets sucked into problems between the respective motherlands," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

"A show of muscle by either side is not compatible with the peace efforts," another diplomat close to the peace talks said.

Greece said on Tuesday it would lodge a protest with Turkey over the alleged air space violations.

Greece and Turkey, NATO partners but bitter adversaries at odds for decades over the division of Cyprus, are guarantor powers of the island's sovereignty with former colonial power Britain under 1960 independence treaties.

International mediators stepped up efforts to resolve the Cyprus issue this year amid increased tensions as both sides beefed up the defences following a series of deaths on the ceasefire line separating the island's Greeks and Turks in 1996.

Turkey, which has 30,000 troops stationed in north Cyprus, has also warned it will block the deployment of a Russian surface-to-air missile system the Greek Cypriots have ordered for delivery in autumn 1998.

"I think things should calm down pretty soon. The Americans are after some kind of positive mood in Crete next month," said the diplomat.

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Algerian judge murdered

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian judge has been shot dead in a town near the major industrial city of Annaba in eastern Algeria as he left for work, the Liberte and Al Khabar dailies reported Tuesday. Unidentified gunmen shot the unnamed judge in the chest several times after blowing up a bomb in front of his car on Sunday. His brother was hurt in the attack, the papers said. More than 20 judges have been assassinated by Islamists at war with the army-backed secular regime since 1992, but such killings had ceased more than a year ago.

gers, all of them aged below 30, and travelling in two buses were killed. Al Watan said 33 people died.

According to Liberte the victims were mainly "tra-bendists" or smugglers heading for the Algeria-Morocco frontier town of Zouia, near Maghnia, to pickup goods.

It said 30 "terrorists" were involved in the attack which lasted two hours from Sunday midnight until 2 a.m. Monday.

Shortly before the bus attack, an ambulance was stopped on the same road. A nurse, midwife and the driver had their throats cut, La Tribune said.

Liberte said that in the attack on the ambulance, the driver managed to flee but four women were killed.

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day life.

"I promise my constituency to work for the implementation of the social safety net programme," said Hamad Abu Jammous, a former minister and a deputy in the former Parliament, running in the First District.

Aysha Khawaja Razem, the only woman candidate in the First District, said she will concentrate on issues which concern women and children including educational reforms.

According to another candidate, Fakhri Agrabawi (First District), creating job opportunities for the youth should be a deputy's priority.

Other deputies in the First District, such as Khalil Hussein Attiyeh and Yousef Abdullah, are centering their campaigns mainly on the need to upgrade public services in the area, establish new schools, open new medical centres, and upgrade the facilities in the already-existing ones.

In the Second District, which includes the Hittin refugee camp together with the Yarmouk, Nasr, Ras Al Ain, and Badr areas, one candidate, Mohammad Wahsh, is especially focusing on returnees' rights and has displayed many banners uphold-

ing the right to compensation for those who lost their jobs as a result of the 1990-1991 Gulf War.

Other candidates in the First District include: Rashid Baraiseh, Hamadah Fara'neh, Ghaleb Dmour, Khalil Hussein Attiyeh, Mohammed Arneemah, Saleh Ali Rihail, Nahhar Arneemah, Mukhlis Odeh, Khaled Qanawi, Abdul Haleem Khalayleh, Ahmad Awaisheh, Saleh Hiddan, Zuhair Aza, Marwan Diri, and Fakher Kayyali.

The candidacies of Jamal Abu Yahia and Nayel Wada'an were rejected Monday by the administrative governor for falling short of the documentation requirements prescribed by the Elections Law.

These candidates are now entitled to appeal before the Court of First Instance within the next two days.

Other candidates running in Amman's Second District include: Ali Musa Zir, Mohammed Koutz, Khalil Hassaneh, Khalil Mara'i.

Omar Hamlan, Mohammad Baraiseh, Da'raj, Moharrarnad Abdul Razaq Mahasiri, Yousef 'Ajouri, Jasser Ma'aiteh, Fathi Jaradat, Mohammad Yousef Mabidin, and Jamal Ma'lawani

CAIRO (AFP) — A buffalo with two heads, two tails and seven feet was born in the northern Egyptian province of Daqahliya, the government newspaper Al Ahram reported on Tuesday. "Such births are very rare and occur only once every 500,000 million," Al Ahram quoted experts as saying. Daqahliya veterinarian Abdul Ghani Ibrahim, who assisted the creature's birth, said the mother must have grazed on grass heavily treated with insecticides or been given drugs.

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli court jailed a 66-year-old man for cheating on his driving theory test, a newspaper reported Monday. "I don't understand what is so serious about what I did," David Yizraelov, 66, told Yediot Ahronot after a Tel Aviv court rejected his appeal of a year and a half sentence Sunday. Yizraelov's licence was revoked after a series of violations 20 years ago. A recent effort to renew it yielded only heartache: He failed the theory exam five times. On the sixth try, he arrived armed with a pen with the answers written on it — and was caught.

NEW YORK (AP) — Mick Jagger's sore throat forced the Rolling Stones to cancel their Tuesday appearance on MTV — and left network executives with no concert a day before the premiere of a new weekly live concert programme. Spokeswoman Andrea Smith said that David Bowie was quickly enlisted as a fill-in on "live from the 10-spot. There's a risk in presenting a weekly live music series, but MTV is committed to and excited about taking that risk."

NEW YORK (AP) — Boris Karloff wouldn't much like contemporary horror movies, his daughter says. In fact, "he'd be horrified." The star of the '30s classics "Frankenstein" and "The Mummy" didn't like monster movies that were too explicit. Sara Karloff said Sunday at a retrospective of her father's work at the American Museum of the Moving Image. The trend toward "competitions between special-effects artists," as Karloff described today's horror films, was already under way when her father died in 1969. "He felt the real shame about them was they left so little to the imagination of the viewer," she said.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joe Eszterhas, who wrote "Showgirls" and "Basic Instinct," is focusing on feelings other than sexual in his latest film. The screenwriter went back to his childhood in Cleveland for "Telling Lies in America," he told the New York Times for Sunday's edition. The main character is a young Hungarian immigrant in the 1960s and the plot is based on the bribes paid to radio disk jockeys during the early rock 'n' roll years. "The characterisation of the boy is certainly taken from a kind of insecurity and awkwardness and feelings of inferiority that I had growing up as an immigrant," he said. "I like the gentle comedic aspects... Maybe the older I get, the more I like the notion of making people smile and laugh."



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John H. Hammond

John H. Hammond

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Howard Sustaining
Editorial Staff
Long Island

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January 22, 1961
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Canadian envoy returns to Israel

Israel delays
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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered.

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By Frank
London Times

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